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**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF  
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION  
OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**Extended forty-fifth session  
Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
10–25 September 2023**

**Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda: Periodic Reports**

**10B: Report on the results of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise  
in Latin America and the Caribbean**

**SUMMARY**

This document presents the outcomes of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting for the Latin America and the Caribbean region pursuant to Decision **41 COM 10A** and is structured as follows:

**Part I – Third Cycle Periodic Report in Latin America and the Caribbean**

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: Implementation of the World Heritage Convention by States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean

Chapter 3: Implementation of the World Heritage Convention at World Heritage properties in the Latin America and the Caribbean region

Chapter 4: Monitoring Indicators for the Latin America and the Caribbean region

Chapter 5: Conclusion

**Part II – Framework Action Plan and process**

Chapter 6: Draft Action Plan (2023–2029) for the Latin America and the Caribbean region

Chapter 7: Draft Decision

Additional information on Periodic Reporting in the Latin America and the Caribbean region is continuously updated at the following address: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/lac/>

**Draft Decision: 45COM 10B, see Part II**

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- The commitment of the States Parties who, through their national Focal Points and World Heritage site managers, successfully completed the questionnaires for the 33 countries and 146 World Heritage properties. The Latin America and the Caribbean region was the second region to carry out this exercise entirely online, in the challenging context of the post-COVID-19 pandemic, including all training sessions and follow-up meetings. The UNESCO World Heritage Centre is very grateful for the dedication and motivation of all participants in the exercise, who demonstrated their commitment to this important exercise of the World Heritage Convention.
- The Advisory Bodies of the World Heritage Committee – the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) – for their support and continuous contributions throughout the exercise.
- The Periodic Reporting regional experts whose thorough analysis of the large quantities of data collected as part of the exercise is presented in the present report.
- The Category 2 Centres, namely the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (Mexico) and the Regional Heritage Management Training Centre ‘Lucio Costa’ (Brazil) in facilitating the Periodic Reporting exercise in the region;
- The UNESCO Field Offices in the Latin America and the Caribbean region for their active participation in training sessions and providing support to many States Parties across the region throughout the exercise.

## Executive summary

The World Heritage Committee, at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017), launched the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Latin America and the Caribbean region following Decision **41 COM 10A**, in accordance with Article 29 of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. The Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise in the region involved Latin American and Caribbean States Parties to the Convention and their World Heritage properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, including the sites inscribed by the Committee at its 44th session (Fuzhou/Online, 2021).

The reporting exercise phase took place from September 2021 to July 2022, and all the 33 Latin American and Caribbean States Parties to the Convention were invited to provide responses to an online questionnaire. Out of the total number of 147 World Heritage properties from 28 countries in the region, 144 properties also provided site-level specific information for the exercise.

The questionnaire is divided into two sections:

- **Section I:** Implementation of the World Heritage Convention at State Party level
- **Section II:** Implementation of the World Heritage Convention at World Heritage property level.

The 147 properties from the region – 101 cultural, 38 natural and 8 mixed – represent nearly 13% of the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.

The region has six properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger (two natural and four cultural) of which three have been inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger since the presentation of the Second Cycle Report to the Committee in 2012.

The detailed information from the exercise provides a rich array of responses to the current situation in the region, with subregionally disaggregated data that reflects the specificities of the Caribbean, Central America and Mexico, and South America. The key findings can be summarized as follows:

### Implementation of the World Heritage Convention at the national level

By the reporting deadline, all the 33 States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean region had engaged in the monitoring process. The vast majority of countries from all subregions, making a total of 30 responses, show that governmental institutions have been directly involved in responding to the Section I of the questionnaire, with a clear absence of the social sector in this exercise. The Caribbean, however, shows a higher involvement of diverse stakeholders, with the clear participation of national commissions, as well as some involvement of NGOs.

#### 1. *Tentative lists and nominations*

Both for Tentative lists and nominations, governmental institutions lead the processes alongside the World Heritage site managers. Gender equality in both processes could be reinforced. An average of 24% of the countries in the region have benefited from the Upstream Process to update their tentative lists. In the future, 88% of respondents would like to request trainings in the process. While the current Tentative lists promote dialogue between institutions and local communities, the existing sites do not demonstrate a clear commitment to international cooperation.

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

The region has a clear commitment to participate in other multilateral environmental agreements, especially the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on

International Trade in Endangered Species in Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). Regarding cultural heritage, the most widely followed ones are the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. The 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage has a greater acceptance in the Caribbean and in Central America and Mexico. Cooperation and synergies with other biodiversity-related and cultural conventions and programmes are present but could be strengthened. Interministerial cooperation, however, could be further reinforced.

### 3. *General policy development*

National heritage regulations seem to be more adequate for the identification of heritage than for its conservation, with clear differences by subregions. In 20 countries, heritage is considered to have a function in the life of communities, but deficiencies in the implementation remain. In 78% of the countries, there is limited coordination among and integration of multilateral agreements, programmes, World Heritage policies and strategies into national policies. A total of 76% of countries respond that heritage is somehow integrated into wider policies at national level, but with clear deficiencies.

### 4. *Financial status and human resources*

The funding sources are not very diversified and most States Parties agree that the major source of funding for running costs and maintenance comes from the national government. The Small Island Developing States (SIDS), notably from the Caribbean subregion, get funds from more diverse sources, including international funding. The financial resources made available for heritage and its sustainability should be reinforced across the region. The majority of the responses from the region indicate that the available human resources are inadequate or below optimum levels.

### 5. *Capacity development*

The priorities for capacity development are focused on risk preparedness and climate change adaptation, as well as on impact assessment tools and capacities for the conservation and management of heritage. Regarding the existing national capacity-building strategies, nearly half of the region does not have any national strategy and promotes capacity-building ad hoc, while a similar group of countries report that the existing strategy has deficiencies in implementation.

### 6. *Policy and resourcing of World Heritage properties*

A significant number of countries encourage and support sustainable management and development of visitation and tourism at World Heritage properties, but this support could be strengthened further. Similarly, existing governance structures could be improved to facilitate network cooperation and stakeholder engagement. While there have been improvements in national legislation, more than half of the region considers that significant deficiencies still need to be addressed.

### 7. *International cooperation*

The countries from the three subregions have made significant progress in promoting international cooperation in the conservation and protection of natural and cultural heritage, including a diverse range of activities. Ten countries have twinning programmes at national or international level, with clear implementation in South America, which accounts for six of these experiences. A significant number of countries have also expressed interest in participating in the World Heritage properties twinning programmes.

## Key areas for improvement identified at the national level

Identified by Focal Points, the two top issues considered as priority areas for improvement at the national level are:

- capacity-building
- international cooperation

In addition, the adequacy, sustainability and diversification of budgets is considered as an important area for improvement.

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

Section II of the questionnaire received responses from 145 properties (including three transboundary sites), providing information regarding 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 128 to the current 145, an increase of 17.

### 1. *Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage properties*

Site managers at 75% of the properties report that key attributes of their Outstanding Universal Values (OUV) are well-preserved. Mixed properties show better results in the preservation of their attributes, with 90.6% reporting good preservation. No seriously compromised attributes were reported in any mixed sites, while cultural properties reported 2.6% and the natural ones reported 8.8% of seriously compromised attributes.

### 2. *Synergies with other Conventions, Programmes and Recommendations*

The combination of designations enjoys growing popularity: 35 properties are listed as Biosphere Reserves and 22 properties are listed under the Ramsar Convention; 30% of the site managers are aware of any element inscribed in the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and a small number of properties (22 out of 145) have documentary heritage listed under the Memory of the World Programme. Cooperation between Focal Points of the different programmes is reported as rather weak and there is a clear path for improving collaboration among conventions and programmes at property level.

### 3. *Factors affecting the property*

Overall, there is a tendency to identify negative factors as having a greater impact than positive ones. The three subregions share similar priorities in identifying the two most impactful factors, which are 'management and institutional factors' – mostly mentioned for their current positive impact – and 'social/cultural uses of heritage' – considered to have both positive and negative impacts in similar numbers. Cultural properties share those priorities, while natural heritage and mixed sites include 'biological resource modification' as their second priority. Site managers indicate that they have medium capacity to respond to the impact of these factors and that their negative effects are either static or increasing over time.

### 4. *Protection and management of the property*

The boundaries of the properties have been reported as adequate for maintaining the OUV of the properties in 66% of cases, while only 40% of participants consider that the boundaries of buffer zones are adequate. The level of knowledge and legal protection of buffer zones is a clear area for improvement. World Heritage in the region is driven by public management and the level of coordination with certain groups could be more effectively implemented, including women, children, youth and Indigenous peoples. Knowledge and implementation of some management tools is also an area for improvement, especially regarding UNESCO tools in climate change and risk preparedness.

## 5. *Human and financial resources and management needs*

National public institutions provide almost half of the funding for World Heritage properties in the region, with additional financing sources coming from other levels of government. An average of 45% of the World Heritage properties have reported having acceptable budgets for their management, while 41% reported inadequate funding. The main professions of property personnel were conservation, administration, research and visitor management, while fewer staff members had capacities in risk preparedness and marketing.

## 6. *Visitor management*

The recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic was positive for mixed and natural properties but still negative for cultural properties, with variations among subregions. Based on 73% of responses, entry tickets are one of the primary sources of information for recording visitor statistics; 56% of properties reported that visitors do not stay overnight at the property. A total of 67 site managers reported having a strategy to manage visitors, tourism activity and its derived impacts on the World Heritage property, but better cooperation with the tourism industry is needed.

## 7. *Monitoring*

While 39% of the region considers that an adequate and effective monitoring system is implemented, another 29% only offers small monitoring activities. There is also room for improvement regarding the identification of indicators used for monitoring purposes. World Heritage staff, researchers, local authorities and local communities were reported as the stakeholders with more participation in monitoring activities.

## 8. *Priority management needs*

Human resources remain a key factor to be addressed in the region, following their presence in priority needs throughout the three subregions. While SIDS of the Caribbean subregion focus their needs on securing funding and visitor management, South America and Central America and Mexico also identified education programmes as a detected management need.

## 9. *Impacts of World Heritage status*

World Heritage status appears to make a significant contribution in areas such as conservation, recognition, research, monitoring, policy and legal frameworks.

### **Key areas for improvement identified at the property level**

#### **The top issues identified as priority areas for improvement at the property level are:**

- human resources adequacy and capacity-building (especially risk preparedness, community participation, marketing and promotion)
- legal and management frameworks (especially regarding buffer zones)

At property level, the adequacy and sustainability of budgets are identified as important areas for improvement.



## **PART I. THIRD CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

### **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 status of the Convention in their respective territories. Periodic Reporting is important for more 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 tool for assessing how effectively the policies adopted by the World Heritage Committee and the General Assembly have been implemented by States Parties and World Heritage site managers.

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.

Since the adoption of Periodic Reporting by the World Heritage Committee, two cycles have been completed. The First Cycle was carried out from 1998 to 2006, and the Second Cycle 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 for the Second Cycle and therefore the Latin America and the Caribbean region, being the fourth region in the line, started the statutory exercise in September 2021 to July 2022.

#### **1.1 First and Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Latin America and the Caribbean region**

##### **1.1.1 First Cycle: Background, outcomes and follow-up**

The First Cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise for the Latin America and the Caribbean region was carried out from 2002 to 2003 and was largely experimental in nature. The Latin America and the Caribbean region was the fourth to submit Periodic Reports, after the Arab States, Africa, and Asia and the Pacific. This exercise involved 31 States Parties to the Convention and 109 World Heritage properties (76 cultural and 30 natural and 3 mixed) located in 25 States Parties.

The first Periodic Report for the Latin America and the Caribbean region was presented in the document [WHC-04/28.COM/16](#) to the World Heritage Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004) and by Decision **28 COM 16**, the Strategic Framework for Action and Action Plan for World Heritage in the Latin America and the Caribbean was endorsed by the Committee. A series of prioritized subregional Action Plans were developed by the States Parties for Central America and Mexico in order to facilitate the implementation of the results of the First Cycle.

Subsequently in 2006, the Periodic Report, as well as the Regional, and Latin America and the Caribbean Action Plans, were published ([World Heritage Paper Series, n°18](#)).

Follow-up on the First Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise in the Latin America and the Caribbean region was presented to the World Heritage Committee in its subsequent Decisions: **28 COM 16** (Suzhou, 2004); **30 COM 11E** (Vilnius, 2006); **32 COM 11D** (Quebec City, 2008); **34 COM 10B.2** (Brasília, 2010); and **35 COM 10B** (Paris, 2011).

### **1.1.2 Second Cycle: Background, outcomes and follow-up**

Following the completion of the First Cycle of Periodic Reporting for all regions (2000–2006), the World Heritage Committee decided, in Decision **7 EXT.COM 5**, to launch a Periodic Reporting Reflection Year. The Committee revised the timetable for the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting by Decision **30 COM 11G** and 2011 was identified as the start year for the Latin America and the Caribbean region, with the presentation of the final report in the document [WHC-13/37.COM/10A](#), for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session in 2013.

The Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting has provided the States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean with an important opportunity to review and examine national and regional priorities. Involvement in the Periodic Reporting exercise has also increased awareness about the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and heritage management. Furthermore, a greater level of regional cooperation and networking between national Focal Points and site managers has been progressively established. It is strongly recommended that States Parties maintain this increased awareness and momentum and further reinforce it in the near future through the thematic approaches established to improve collaboration on World Heritage matters.

Follow-up on the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise in the Latin America and the Caribbean region was presented to the World Heritage Committee in its subsequent Decisions: **36 COM 10C** (Saint Petersburg, 2012); **37 COM 10C.1** (Phnom Penh, 2013); **38 COM 10B.1** (Doha, 2014); **39 COM 10B.1** (Bonn, 2015); **40 COM 10B.1** (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016); **41 COM 10B.1** (Krakow, 2017), **43 COM 10A.1** (Baku, 2019) and **44 COM 10C.1** (Fuzhou/online, 2021).

## **1.2 Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Latin America and the Caribbean region**

### **1.2.1 Background**

At the end of the Second Cycle, the Periodic Reporting Reflection Expert Group conducted a review on the effectiveness of the process and the questionnaire. An online survey was organized for States Parties to explore their experience in the Second Cycle. The review process resulted in a revised questionnaire and several key outputs. In its Decision **41 COM 10A** (Krakow, 2017), the World Heritage Committee welcomed the recommendations of the Periodic Reporting Reflection Expert Group with regard to the format, content, relevance, analysis and use of data in the Periodic Reporting process. In particular, the revised questionnaire includes questions relating to synergies with other international instruments and programmes on cultural and natural heritage, questions relating to the implementation of the 1972 UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Protection, at National level, of the Cultural and Natural Heritage and to the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, as well as questions assessing the implementation of the World Heritage Policy for integrating a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention and of other key policies adopted by the World Heritage Committee. In addition, the Committee welcomed the development of Periodic Reporting Monitoring Indicators to improve follow-up on progress made by States Parties in the implementation of the Convention as well as the 1972 Recommendation concerning the Protection, at National Level, of the Cultural and Natural Heritage. With the same decision, the Committee decided to officially launch the Third Cycle of

Periodic Reporting, but to exceptionally postpone the start of the Periodic Reporting of all regions by one year. The Committee also decided to maintain the same regional reporting order as for previous cycles, with one region reporting each year, bringing the Latin America and the Caribbean region to start in 2021. The Committee also commended the Category 2 Centres' support for a State-Party-driven exercise in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, notably by organizing regional meetings in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

A total of 33 States Parties to the Convention in the Latin America and the Caribbean region were invited to participate in the exercise as shown by subregional groupings in the table below.

### 1.2.2 Scope

The Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Latin America and the Caribbean was launched in September 2022. All of the 33 States Parties were required to complete Section I, while 28 States Parties were required to complete Section II of the online Periodic Reporting questionnaire for the 146 properties inscribed on the World Heritage List as of September 2021 (101 cultural, 38 natural and 8 mixed, including 4 transboundary) out of which 145 questionnaires were completed.

**Table 1.1. States Parties participating in the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting by subregion**

Subregions	States Parties	Year of ratification(R) or acceptance (Ac)
Caribbean	Antigua and Barbuda	1983 (Ac)
	Bahamas	2014 (R)
	Barbados	2002 (Ac)
	Belize	1990 (R)
	Cuba	1981 (R)
	Dominica	1995 (R)
	Dominican Republic	1985 (R)
	Grenada	1998 (Ac)
	Guyana	1977 (Ac)
	Haiti	1980 (R)
	Jamaica	1983 (Ac)
	Saint Kitts and Nevis	1986 (Ac)
	Saint Lucia	1991 (R)
	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	2003 (R)
Suriname	1997 (Ac)	
Trinidad and Tobago	2005 (R)	
Central America and Mexico	Costa Rica	1977 (R)
	El Salvador	1991 (Ac)
	Guatemala	1979 (R)
	Honduras	1979 (R)
	Mexico	1984 (Ac)
	Nicaragua	1979 (Ac)
	Panama	1978 (R)
South America	Argentina	1978 (Ac)
	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	1976 (R)
	Brazil	1977 (Ac)
	Chile	1980 (R)
	Colombia	1983 (Ac)
	Ecuador	1975 (Ac)
	Paraguay	1988 (R)
	Peru	1982 (R)
	Uruguay	1989 (Ac)
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	1990 (Ac)	

### 1.2.3 Structure of the questionnaire

The Third Cycle questionnaire comprises two sections: Section I focuses on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention at the national level, while Section II focuses on its implementation at each World Heritage property (Table 1.2).

**Table 1.2. Structure of the Third Cycle questionnaire**

Section I (State Party level)	Section II (World Heritage property level)
1. Introduction	1. World Heritage property data
2. Synergies with other conventions, programmes and recommendations for the conservation of the natural and cultural heritage	2. Other Conventions/Programmes under which the World Heritage property is protected (if applicable)
3. Tentative List	3. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value
4. Nominations	4. Factors affecting the property
5. General policy development	5. Protection and management of the property
6. Inventories/Lists/Registers of cultural and natural heritage	6. Financial and human resources
7. Status of services for the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of natural and cultural heritage	7. Scientific studies and research projects
8. Financial status and human resources	8. Education, information and awareness building
9. Capacity development	9. Visitor management
10. Policy and resourcing of World Heritage properties	10. Monitoring
11. International cooperation	11. Identification of priority management needs
12. Education, information and awareness building	12. Summary and conclusions
13. Conclusions and recommended actions	13. Impact of World Heritage status
14. Good practice in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention	14. Good practice in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention
15. Assessment of the Periodic Reporting exercise	15. Assessment of the Periodic Reporting exercise

### 1.2.4 Implementation strategy

The World Heritage Committee, by Decisions **41 COM 10A** (Krakow, 2017) and **42 COM 10A** (Manama, 2018), requested that the World Heritage Centre coordinate the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting. The World Heritage Centre further developed and widely disseminated a set of training and guidance materials for a broad range of stakeholders in response to the Committee Decisions **43 COM 10B** (Baku, 2019) and **44 COM D** (Fuzhou/Online, 2021).

Through its Policy and Statutory Meetings Unit, the World Heritage Centre engaged a Periodic Reporting Coordinator to oversee the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting and to ensure a holistic and common approach in implementing the exercise across all the regions. The World Heritage Centre introduced a Periodic Reporting team for the Latin America and the Caribbean region and continues to inform States Parties of progress throughout the exercise via a regular dispatch of letters, information notes and circular email messages, in addition to the regular online training sessions.

Each State Party designated a national Focal Point to coordinate the exercise at the national level. Thus, the World Heritage Centre cooperated closely with national Focal Points, site managers and heritage stakeholders, UNESCO Regional Offices, Advisory Bodies (ICCROM,

ICOMOS and IUCN). In support, Category 2 Centres (C2C) under the auspices of UNESCO were invited to provide support to the Periodic Reporting exercise. Table 1.3 summarizes the roles and responsibilities of the key actors in the region.

**Table 1.2. Roles and responsibilities of key actors in the Third Cycle Periodic Reporting exercise**

<b>States Parties</b>
<p><u>National Focal Points</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support site managers and coordinate their responses on Periodic Reporting</li> <li>• Consolidate national responses to the Periodic Reporting questionnaire</li> <li>• Complete and submit Section I of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire</li> <li>• Validate and submit Section II of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire</li> </ul>
<p><u>World Heritage site managers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respond to Section II of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire</li> <li>• Participate in regional workshops</li> <li>• Prepare the requested cartographic information for the Retrospective Inventory</li> </ul>
<b>Category 2 Centres</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organize regional meetings and provide targeted technical support to national Focal Points and World Heritage site managers, in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre</li> </ul>
<b>Advisory Bodies</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide technical support and guidance at workshops</li> <li>• Review draft retrospective SOUVs after official submission by the relevant State(s) Party(ies)</li> <li>• Provide capacity-building trainings</li> </ul>
<b>UNESCO Regional Offices and UNESCO National Offices</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate and co-organize regional meetings and workshops</li> <li>• Communicate with national Focal Points and World Heritage site managers during the Periodic Reporting period</li> </ul>
<b>UNESCO World Heritage Centre</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide technical support and guidance to States Parties responding to the Periodic Reporting questionnaire</li> <li>• Provide access to the Periodic Reporting questionnaire to national Focal Points and site managers</li> <li>• Manage the <a href="#">online platforms</a> of the Third Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise</li> <li>• Ensure a holistic approach is undertaken to deliver the exercise</li> <li>• Finalize, in collaboration with States Parties and the Advisory Bodies, the Third Periodic Report and Action Plan for the Latin America and the Caribbean region</li> </ul>

The World Heritage Centre provided continuous desk support to the national Focal Points and site managers regarding the content as well as technical aspects of the questionnaires throughout the reporting process. In line with the Committee **Decision 41 COM 10A** and its call for a State Party-driven exercise and a holistic approach across the regions, the World Heritage Centre developed a set of training and guidance materials in English, French and Spanish, comprising:

- A ‘Site Managers’ Handbook for Periodic Reporting’ describing the objectives, process and format of the exercise to a broad range of stakeholders in a concise manner, using clear and accessible language.
- Two animation videos on the overall Periodic Reporting process and on the specificities of Section II of the questionnaire related to World Heritage properties.
- A list of key terms, which supplements the guidance, providing definitions to terms used in relation to World Heritage, conservation or by the UN system, based on pre-existing published sources.
- Guidance for the questionnaire to improve understanding. This is a dynamic and evolving tool, which reflects changing circumstances across regions and incorporates additional information such as explaining technical terms and concepts. It can function as a capacity-building tool in itself, which can be used for training by national authorities and site managers.

All training material referred to above as well as other tools were made available on the Periodic Reporting Third Cycle web platform: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/prcycle3>

There was close coordination between the various stakeholders during the reporting exercise. The World Heritage Centre established a rapid response helpdesk to support and maintain communication with the States Parties and to deal with technical issues related to the online questionnaire. Between September 2021 and December 2022, the helpdesk responded to approximately 600 queries from national Focal Points and World Heritage site managers via the dedicated Periodic Reporting email, phone calls, social media and cross-platform messaging applications.

The national Focal Points and site managers gave feedback on the support they received from the World Heritage Centre, to help ensure the continuous improvement of the online Periodic Reporting questionnaire. The feedback also confirmed that the guidance tools on the Periodic Reporting platform were widely used when completing the questionnaires.

In order to make the Periodic Reporting data available as soon as possible, the World Heritage Centre will provide short summary reports containing the responses from the site managers and national Focal Points. As is current practice, short summaries will be uploaded for public access on the World Heritage Centre’s website in the original language of submission and 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 provided to the national Focal Points after the adoption of the Regional Report and Action Plan by the Committee. This means that the data collected during the Periodic Reporting exercise could be used independently by all stakeholders in the follow-up to the Third Cycle to enhance site management, as well as for policy- and decision-making. National Focal Points can also access the reports through the Periodic Reporting platform.

### **1.2.5 Methodology**

- Self-assessment

Periodic Reporting is a self-assessment exercise and thus reflects the perspective of national Focal Points and site managers on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention at national and/or local levels. As can be expected in a questionnaire of this kind, there are some inconsistencies between answers to similar questions.

Self-reporting always implies a degree of subjectivity and the way questions were first formulated by developers of the questionnaire and then understood by the end users might influence the results. The Third Cycle Periodic Reporting questionnaire is designed to be as accurate as possible, but some national Focal Points raised issues of comprehension for certain

questions during the exercise, notably that the level of English language might be too complex, especially for non-English speakers.

It should be noted, however, that national Focal Points and site managers who had experience of the Second Cycle Periodic Reporting questionnaire agreed that the Third Cycle questionnaire was generally more complete, comprehensible and easier to use (please see results in Annex II).

- Workshops, meetings and activities

The constraints of post-COVID-19 pandemic made it difficult to hold meetings in person and it was eventually decided to proceed with capacity trainings through online modalities only, using available materials supplemented by a series of specific and individual online training sessions, as well as a dedicated online exchange platform for national Focal Points hosted on Microsoft Teams or Zoom platforms (Table 1.4).

**Table 1.3. Training sessions and implementation schedule for Periodic Reporting in the Latin America and the Caribbean region**

Activity	Description	Date and location
Start of the Reporting Exercise in the Latin America and the Caribbean region	As per the World Heritage Committee Decision <b>41 COM 10A</b> . National Focal Points and site managers were granted access to their respective questionnaire.	7 September 2021  Latin America and the Caribbean States Parties
Kick-off meeting with the national Focal Point	To introduce the objectives of the exercise and key information for the Third Cycle during meetings and events held in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean in 2019–2020.	3 December 2021  Online
Individual meeting with national Focal Points of St Vincent and the Grenadines	Organized by the World Heritage Centre to assist the State Party in the completion of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire	14 April 2022
Individual meeting with national Focal Points of Suriname	Organized by the World Heritage Centre to assist the State Party in the completion of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire	17 May 2022
Individual meeting with national Focal Points of Trinidad and Tobago	Organized by the World Heritage Centre to assist the State Party in the completion of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire	30 June 2022
Pre-analysis before submission of questionnaires from the States Parties	As part of quality assurance support to States Parties, a preliminary analysis of the country questionnaires was processed. The issues identified in the responses of both Section I and II were brought to the attention of the States Parties individually to ensure follow up and consistency between the entries of the questionnaire. Individual emails were sent out to the States Parties with a list of necessary modifications.	May to July 2022
Consultation Online Workshop of Site Managers in the Framework of the Third Cycle of Periodic	A consultation meeting to present the outcomes of the Periodic Reporting exercise and to gather feedback from site managers on the exercise, recommendations to contribute	15 and 16 February 2023  Online

Reporting in Latin America and the Caribbean	the preparation of the Regional Report and Draft Action Plan for the Third Cycle.	
Final Regional Online Workshop for national Focal Points in the Framework of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in Latin America and the Caribbean	A final regional consultation meeting to present the outcomes of the Periodic Reporting exercise, the contributions of the World Heritage site managers to the preparation of the Regional Report and Draft Action Plan for the Third Cycle.	15 and 16 February 2023 Online
Online meeting on implementation of the Framework Action Plan for the Latin America and the Caribbean region	To gather national Focal Points of the Latin America and the Caribbean to discuss on the strategy and way forward to the implementation of the regional Action Plan.	After adoption of the Regional Action Plan for the Latin America and the Caribbean region (2023–2029) by the World Heritage Committee (date to be confirmed)
Implementation of the Framework Regional Action Plan	Implementation of regional actions outlined in the Framework Regional Action Plan.	After adoption of the Regional Action Plan for the Latin America and the Caribbean region (2023–2029) by the World Heritage Committee
	Development and implementation of national action plans.	After adoption by the World Heritage Committee
Mid-Cycle Assessment Report	World Heritage Centre to carry out a monitoring survey on the extent of implementation at national and regional level of the Action Plan.	In three years' time after the adoption of the Regional Action Plan by the World Heritage Committee

In October 2021, the World Heritage Centre initiated the exercise in the region. A kick-off meeting with the national Focal Points was organized in December 2021. The aim of the workshop was to provide the participants with an overview of the Periodic Reporting process and an understanding of the content and functions of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire. Feedback from participants was very positive with a consensus that the workshop was useful in terms of training of trainers. The meetings assisted greatly in the establishment of closer contacts between national Focal Points in the region, with a view to future regional cooperation and exchange on Periodic Reporting. National Focal Points were encouraged to organize national workshops and training sessions to enhance the State-Party-driven approach of the exercise. Several States Parties proactively organized national consultations and workshops to support the implementation of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting, reinforcing interaction between various stakeholders at national levels.

Latin America and the Caribbean is the third region to carry out the Third Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise and the second region after Asia and the Pacific to carry out this exercise entirely online due to the continued global COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, the World Heritage Centre, through active helpdesk support, has accompanied individual national Focal Points and site managers that have request one-to-one training support, notably in the filling out the questionnaire and looking in-depth at specific chapters or topics raised in the questionnaire.



- Formulation of the questions

As for previous regions that underwent the exercise, national Focal Points and site managers found that some of the questions were either difficult or very difficult to understand, notably with regard to the level of English language. Some site managers reported that some questions were often complex, which led to some difficulties and misunderstandings, despite the very helpful guidance from the coordination team and the World Heritage Centre.

For instance, many respondents did not understand the question on public annual expenditure in Section I (questions 8.4 and 8.5). This led to a number of unusual responses, with some exceeding 2% of total annual expenditure, even though available data indicates that this rarely happens in annual budgets for heritage conservation in any given country.

- Data collection and analysis

Section I of the questionnaire submitted by the national Focal Points of the Latin America and the Caribbean region serves as the primary source of data for this Regional Periodic Report. The Focal Points also validated the input in Section II for the World Heritage properties in the respective countries before its 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. However, some discrepancies between the two sections of the questionnaire were observed, particularly in relation to synergies with conventions and programmes. For example, in Section I, national Focal Points would confirm that the State Party is not party to a programme, but in Section II, site managers would respond that the World Heritage property is protected under the programme. Prior to the deadline, the coordination team at the World Heritage Centre carried out several consistency checks and followed up with the concerned States Parties in order to review their answers before the final submission.

In addition, information related to the adhesion to other conventions and participation in UNESCO's programmes was checked and validated to ensure accuracy and consistency in the report.

In order to balance some of the issues regarding the validity of the Periodic Report, conscious efforts were made to utilize knowledge obtained through other sources in the analysis process. The information available at the World Heritage Centre, such as the regional and subregional meeting reports, state of conservation reports and reactive monitoring reports, were consulted as necessary. This was useful not only for data analysis but also for informing the drafting of the Regional Action Plan, in line with the World Heritage Committee's call for 'cross-referencing between state of conservation and periodic reports to enhance consistency in reporting mechanisms and to ensure that follow-up action is taken as necessary' (Decision 29 COM 7B). Through these measures and the implementation strategy for the Periodic Reporting exercise in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, the overall reliability and validity of the conclusions presented in this report are considered satisfactory.

- Data presented in this report

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 is based excludes States Parties or properties which did not reply to a specific question. The report is essentially a narrative one, based on a statistical analysis illustrated from the qualitative replies. 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. Nevertheless, the report does contain statistical graphs which were considered crucial for supporting and further explaining the narrative.

- Serial and transboundary properties

There are four transboundary (three cultural and one natural) properties involving nine States Parties in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. States Parties sharing these properties were invited to consult with each other and designate one site manager and 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. The affected site managers reported on the fruitful cooperation and synergies between them during the exercise. The Third Cycle being a State-Party driven process, for these types of properties, concerned States Parties clarified and agreed between themselves which State Party will lead and will be responsible for completing and submitting the questionnaire for the concerned property, in close consultation with other concerned States Parties. It was noted that in the Third Cycle exercise this practice is settled between States Parties concerned.

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. Additionally, site managers and Focal Points reported that it was sometimes challenging 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.

It is to be noted that for the World Heritage property of The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement (being a transregional World Heritage property, shared between seven States Parties in three continents), it has been agreed between the countries concerned that the questionnaire will be completed by France in collaboration with all other site managers involved when Europe and North America region undergoes its reporting period (2022–2023).

### **1.3 Feedback on the Third Cycle**

Overall, the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting was assessed positively. The fact that national Focal Points were able to complete 100% (44 out of 44) for section I and 99.3% (145 out of 146) for section II of the Third Cycle questionnaire was in itself a major achievement and shows the States Parties' continuous support in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. While the site managers assessed the Periodic Reporting exercise as relatively positive, the interpretation of the results is quite complex, due to the large variety of property types and the subjective understanding of the questions by each respondent.

Most site managers indicated that the exercise helped to improve awareness of current management issues, e.g. the importance of management plans or systems. Better cooperation between stakeholders has often been mentioned as a positive outcome, and this was further highlighted. Several site managers commented on the many positive experiences and benefits of World Heritage listing, and frequently suggested that the questionnaire should be designed with the regional context in mind.

The online guidance and training tools provided by the World Heritage Centre were generally considered to be very useful and instructive, and most of the participants confirmed the ease of use of the questionnaire tool, but indicated room for improvement, especially in terms of readability, notably that the tool should fit new communication tools such as tablet and mobile devices. In terms of clarity of questions, the ratings were slightly lower, suggesting room for improvement as mentioned previously.

Focal Points and site managers generally found the questionnaire easy to use but indicated that a few questions were either difficult or very difficult to understand. Some site managers reported during the training workshops that the formulation of questions in the questionnaires was often complex and led to some difficulties and misunderstandings.

At the time of launching the Third Cycle, the Latin America and the Caribbean region was comprised of 33 States Parties to the World Heritage Convention. The World Heritage Committee inscribed the 1,154th property on the List at its extended 44th session (Fuzhou/online, 2021). This brought the total of World Heritage properties in the Latin America and the Caribbean region to 147, representing 12.7% of the World Heritage List, in contrast to the Second Cycle, where the total number of inscribed sites in the region represented 13.68%.

It should also be noted that five States Parties in the region do not have a World Heritage property. All of them are from the Caribbean subregion.

**Table 1.5. List of States Parties in the Latin America and the Caribbean without an inscribed property**

States Parties from the Latin America and the Caribbean region without an inscribed property	
Subregion	State Party
Caribbean	Bahamas
	Grenada
	Guyana
	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
	Trinidad and Tobago

### 1.3.1 Outstanding Universal Value: Criteria used for inscription

The World Heritage Committee considers a property as having Outstanding Universal Value if the property meets one or more of the criteria listed in paragraph 77 of the Operational Guidelines. Table 1.6 shows how these criteria have been applied for properties in Latin America and the Caribbean by the start of the exercise.

**Table 1.6. Criteria used for determining OUV of properties in the Latin America and the Caribbean region.**

Criterion and description	Cultural	Natural	Mixed	Total inscribed	% of total properties in the region	Inscribed under single criterion	Inscribed under single in %*
<b>Criterion (i)</b> 'Masterpiece of human creative genius'	24	0	3	27	18.36%	0	0%
<b>Criterion (ii)</b> 'Interchange of human values'	50	0	1	51	34.69%	1	0.68%
<b>Criterion (iii)</b> 'Exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization'	39	0	6	45	30.61%	8	5.44%
<b>Criterion (iv)</b> 'Outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble'	77	0	3	80	54.42%	7	4.76%
<b>Criterion (v)</b> 'Traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use'	16	0	1	17	11.56%	0	0%
<b>Criterion (vi)</b> 'Associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or beliefs'	16	0	1	17	11.56%	1	0.68%

<b>Criterion (vii)</b> 'Superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty'	0	23	2	25	17%	1	0.68%
<b>Criterion (viii)</b> 'Major stages of Earth's history'	0	12	0	12	8.16%	1	0.68%
<b>Criterion (ix)</b> 'Ongoing ecological and biological processes'	0	24	5	29	19.72%	0	0%
<b>Criterion (x)</b> 'Significant natural habitats for <i>in situ</i> conservation of biological diversity'	0	31	7	38	25.85%	2	1.36%

\* Percentage of properties in Latin America and the Caribbean region inscribed under a single criterion. Note: A property can be inscribed under as many criteria as the Committee deems appropriate at the time of inscription.

Since the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, the World Heritage Committee has inscribed 23 new properties – 16 cultural, 3 natural and 4 mixed – from the Latin America and the Caribbean region on the World Heritage List (Table 1.7). These new inscriptions were based on the 10 criteria that help define OUV (Table 1.6). For cultural properties, Criterion (iv) 'Outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble' remains the most applied for inscription, followed by Criterion (ii) 'Interchange of human values'. For natural properties, the most common Criterion has been (x) 'Significant natural habitats for *in situ* conservation of biological diversity'.

**Table 1.7. Number of properties inscribed under each criterion in the Latin America and the Caribbean region since the second cycle of Periodic Reporting (2012–2022)**

Criterion	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)	(vi)	(vii)	(viii)	(ix)	(x)
<b>Number of times used</b>	4	7	5	9	3	5	3	1	2	7

### **1.3.2 State of conservation of World Heritage properties in the Latin America and the Caribbean region**

Beyond collecting and updating basic statutory information, the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in Latin America and the Caribbean has provided a more comprehensive understanding of the state of conservation of all World Heritage properties in the region.

The Periodic Reporting process is closely linked to the monitoring of the state of conservation of properties by the Committee, the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre. While Periodic Reporting allows for a self-assessment by national and local authorities responsible for a World Heritage property, monitoring activities and reviews by external international experts provide an external perspective. Without both processes, a complete and accurate overview on the state of conservation of the properties cannot be achieved, as one process is focused on known issues and the other is a subjective self-assessment. Together, these processes complement each other and enable a comprehensive understanding on the state of conservation of properties in Latin America and the Caribbean.

By June 2023, 238 states of conservation for 55 properties located in 21 States Parties from Latin America and the Caribbean had been examined by the World Heritage Committee.

Table 1.8 compares the main threats affecting properties in the region reported from the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise. In addition, the threats are compared with the state of conservation reports between 2012 and 2021 (year of the last World Heritage Committee session).

**Table 1.8. Main threats mentioned in the framework of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in comparison to the main threats mentioned in SOC reports**

Rank	Main threats mentioned in Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting	Main threats mentioned in 238 SOC reports, since Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting as from 2012–2021 included
1	Management systems/management plan	Management systems/management plan (206)
2	Housing	Legal framework (90)
3	Impact of tourism/visitor/recreation	Housing (80)
4	Legal framework	Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation (79)
5	Illegal activities	Illegal activities (55)
6	Land conversion	Land conversion (48)
7	Impacts of tourism/visitor/recreation	Ground transport and infrastructure (39)
8	Ground transport and infrastructure	Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community (37)
9	Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure	Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure (37)
10	Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community	Governance (29) Livestock farming/grazing of domesticated animals (29) Water infrastructure (29)

These correspond closely with the results of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting. Following the Second Cycle, available records provide the following breakdown of the state of conservation reports presented to the Committee for properties in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. The World Heritage Committee examines the state of conservation of an average of 25 World Heritage properties in the Latin America and the Caribbean each year.

### **1.3.3 List of World Heritage in Danger**

The Latin America and the Caribbean region records six properties (two natural and four cultural) inscribed on the World Heritage in Danger. Since the Second Cycle, two properties have been inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

**Table 1.9. List of World Heritage in Danger in the Latin America and the Caribbean region as of June 2023**

Subregion	State Party	World Heritage property	Year of inscription on List of World Heritage in Danger
Central America and Mexico	Honduras	Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve	2011
	Mexico	Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California	2019
	Panama	Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobelo-San Lorenzo	2012
South America	Bolivia	City of Potosí	2014
	Peru	Chan Chan Archaeological Zone	1986

	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Coro and its Port	2005
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**Table 1.10. List of World Heritage properties that were removed from the World Heritage List in Danger since the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting (period 2012–2023)**

Subregion	State Party	World Heritage property		Year of removal from the List of World Heritage in Danger
South America	Colombia	Los Katíos National Park		2015
	Chile	Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works		2019
Caribbean	Belize	Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System		2018

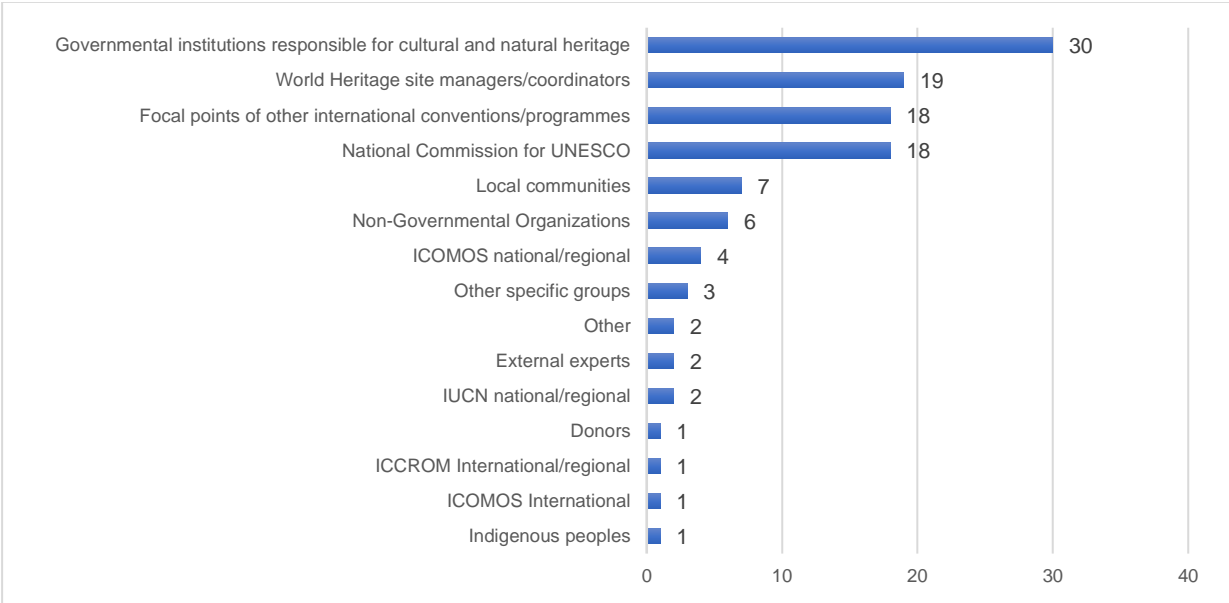
## 2. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION BY THE STATES PARTIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

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 Third Cycle questionnaire, which was completed and submitted by the national Focal Points on behalf of their respective States Parties. All national Focal Points for World Heritage in the Region participated in the exercise and 100% completion of the questionnaire for Section I was recorded. It is to be noted that the total number of State Parties reports remains only one more than in the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, with Bahamas adhering to the Convention in 2014.

The following analysis is based on the questionnaires completed by the 33 States Parties of the region and the complete set of statistics is available in Annex I to this report.

### 2.1 Introduction

The questionnaire begins the analysis of the implementation of the Convention at national level by trying to identify the groups and institutions involved in the preparation of the Periodic Report. The responses clearly show that in the overwhelming majority of States Parties from the region (30 out of 33), governmental institutions responsible for cultural and natural heritage are in charge of this exercise.



**Figure 2.1.** Groups and institutions that have been acknowledged as contributors to the Report

In a second level, World Heritage site managers, National Commissions for UNESCO and Focal Points for other international Conventions/programmes are also part of the exercise. Local communities, non-governmental organizations, Indigenous peoples and other specific groups, as well as Advisory Bodies to the Committee (IUCN, ICOMOS and ICCROM) and others, were not included in an identifiable way. Considering the importance of Indigenous peoples for the region, it must be highlighted that only one country from South America reported on the involvement of Indigenous peoples during the completion of the Periodic Reporting exercise for the whole region. NGOs were more involved in Caribbean countries (31.25% of the received questionnaires), while they were absent in Central America and Mexico, with only one State

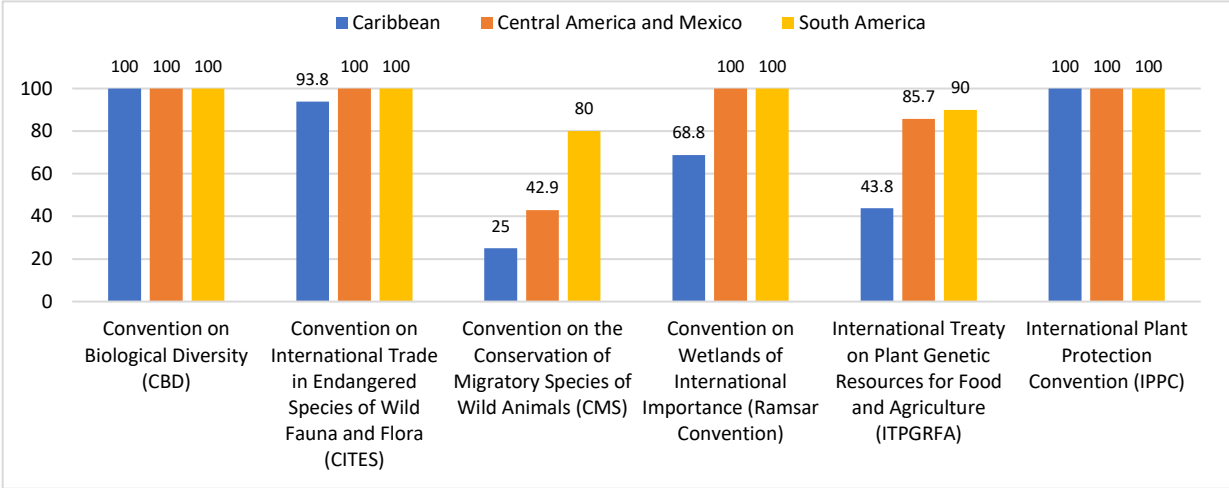
Party from South America including NGO participation. Regarding the experts' participation, national experts are more likely to be included than the international representatives of the Advisory Bodies.

**2.2 Synergies with other Conventions, Programmes and Recommendations for the conservation of cultural and natural heritage**

**2.2.1 Multilateral environmental agreements**

All the State Parties in Latin America and Caribbean have signed the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Plant Protection Convention. In addition, all the States Parties, except one, are party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in Wild Flora and Fauna.

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) is adhered to by all the States Parties of the Central America and Mexico and South America subregions. For the Caribbean, the number of countries party to the Ramsar Convention stands at 68.8% (Figure 2.2).



**Figure 2.2.** Level of adherence to multilateral environmental agreements in the Latin America and the Caribbean region

In the Central America and Mexico subregion, only Mexico has the intention to designate a World Heritage property as a Wetland of International Importance in the next three years. This is the Ancient Maya City and Protected Tropical Forest of Calakmul, a mixed site also designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. As regards South America, four States Parties have the intention to designate six World Heritage properties as a Wetland of International Importance in the next three years: Los Alerces National Park (Argentina), Noel Kempff Mercado National Park (Bolivia), Sangay National Park (Ecuador) and Huascarán National Park (Peru). In addition, Argentina and Peru intend to designate as a Ramsar site the transnational World Heritage property of Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System.

With regard to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), six out of seven State Parties in Central America and Mexico, and nine out of ten States Parties in South America have adhered to the Treaty. For the Caribbean subregion, the figure is 7 out of 16.

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) is adhered to by 80% of the States Parties from South America, 43% from Central America and Mexico and



25% in the Caribbean. States Parties have also commented that there are other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) in operation in the region, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Inter-American Convention (IAC) for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles was highlighted in Central America and South America as another important convention on migratory species. For the Caribbean subregion, the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) or the Cartagena Convention that includes the 'Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution Protocol' and the International Whaling Convention are mentioned, among others.

**2.2.2 UNESCO Culture Conventions**

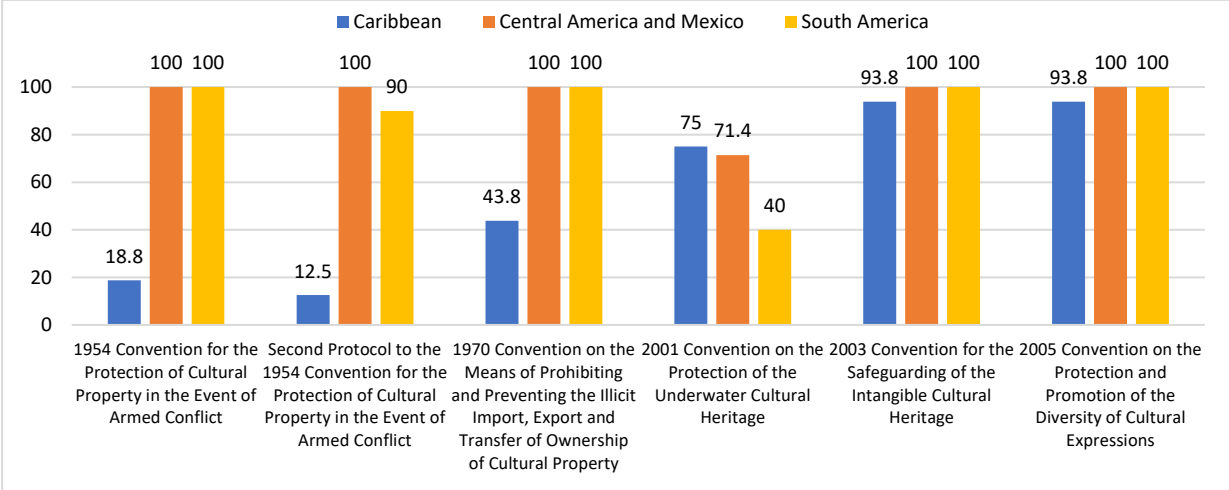
In addition to the World Heritage Convention, all the countries in South America and Central America and Mexico are party to the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, closely followed by Caribbean, where only one State Party has not adhered to those two most recent UNESCO Culture Conventions.

The 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage has a significant presence in the Caribbean, where 12 of 16 States Parties have adhered to it (75%), followed by five out of seven countries from Central America and Mexico (71.43%). In the South America subregion, four out of ten countries (40%) have adhered the 2001 Convention.

The 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property is ratified by all the countries in the South America and Central America and Mexico subregions, whereas adherence in the Caribbean is only by seven countries (43%).

All States Parties in Central America and Mexico have adhered to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, and its Second Protocol. Closely following that example are the States Parties of the South America subregion with nine States Parties out of the ten. It is to be noted that only three States Parties in the Caribbean are party to the 1954 Convention and its 1999 Second Protocol.

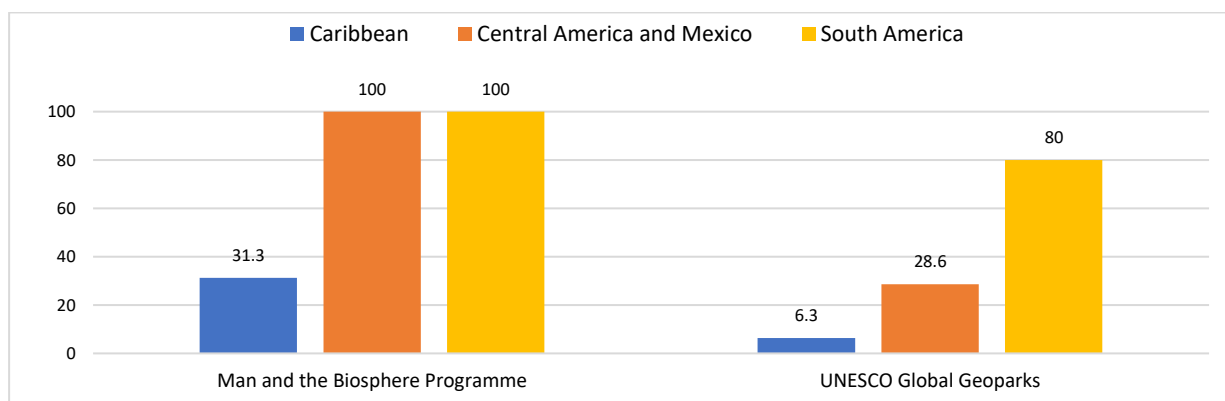
Only one State Party from Central America and Mexico and two from South America reported their intention to request the granting of Enhanced Protection under the 1999 Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict for any of its World Heritage properties in the coming years.



**Figure 2.3.** Level of adhesion to UNESCO Cultural Conventions in the Latin America and the Caribbean region

States Parties, notably in the South America subregion, reported having adhered to other international conventions on cultural heritage; many mentioned the MERCOSUR-Cultural as one of the most relevant. This is a thematic common agenda to enhance cooperation in cultural heritage among the 12 countries of South America. Some other relevant global and regional conventions or agreements on cultural heritage to which the Caribbean States are party include the Regional Cultural Policy of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

### 2.2.3 UNESCO Programmes



**Figure 2.4.** Level of adhesion to UNESCO Programme in the Latin America and the Caribbean region

With regard to some of the key UNESCO programmes, all Central America and Mexico, and South America States Parties participate in the Man and the Biosphere Programme, with 60 Biosphere Reserves in the subregion. This programme is followed by a smaller number of Caribbean countries (31.3% of the subregion).

There are 132 biosphere reserves in 22 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, showing the commitment of the region to the Programme. In addition, four countries (Bolivia, Costa Rica, Panama and Peru) stated that they intend to nominate a World Heritage property as a Biosphere Reserve in the next three years.

The UNESCO Global Geoparks programme is less well known in the region: only one country from the Caribbean (Cuba) responded positively. South America, with eight countries adhering to the Programmes, represents the highest percentage (66.7%) in the region. Only two States Parties in Central America and Mexico (Mexico and Nicaragua) participate in this programme.

Regarding World Heritage properties, according to the information provided, two sites could be part of the Global Geoparks Network in the next years: Sangay National Park (Ecuador) in South America and Viñales Valley (Cuba) in the Caribbean have applied for this designation.

### 2.2.4 Cooperation and synergies between the Conventions and programmes

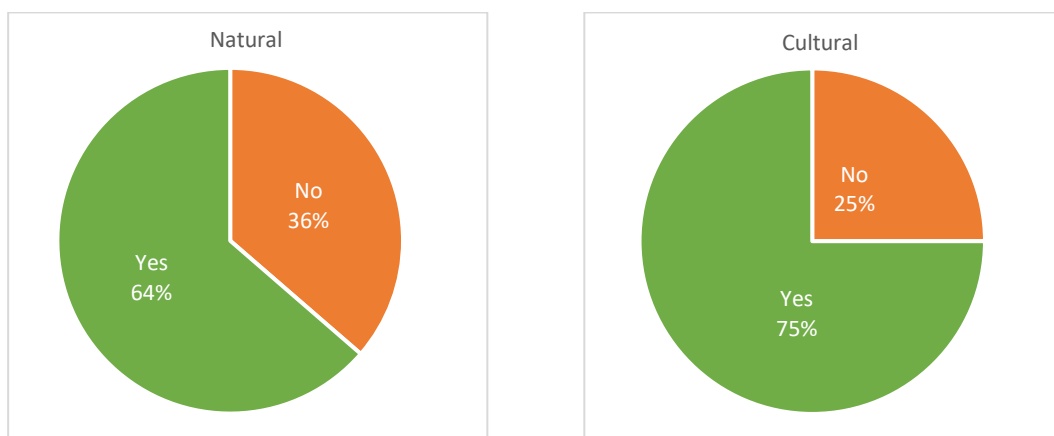
With regard to communication between the World Heritage Focal Point and Focal Points from other Conventions and programmes, it is evident that communication is more usual with cultural conventions' Focal Points than environmental ones.

The greater communication is with the people in charge of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding on the Intangible Heritage (26 positive responses) and the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (23 positive responses).

Cooperation reaches 100% in South America for the 2003 Convention, and 90% for the 2005 Convention.

Environmental agreement-related cooperation is led by the Focal Points responsible for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), with 19 responses. In this case, it is the Caribbean that has a leading role in promoting cooperation among these actors, since 75% of the countries in that subregion are in communication with the CBD Focal Points. A fairly similar number and distribution is obtained with regard to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in Wild Flora and Fauna.

World Heritage Focal Points are involved in the revision and implementation of national natural heritage strategies, policies and action plans in 64% of the countries in the region, even beyond specific issues related to World Heritage. But with regard to the responses related to cultural heritage strategies and wider policies, this percentage goes up to 75%, meaning that Focal Points in Latin America and Caribbean tend to be more present in cultural policies of the country than in natural ones (Figure 2.5).



**Figure 2.5.** Percentage of involvement of Focal Points in the implementation of natural heritage strategies (left) and cultural heritage strategies (right) in the Latin America and the Caribbean region

This involvement differs significantly by subregion: Central America and Mexico States Parties reported a full participation (100%) for both natural and cultural policies. Caribbean States Parties report 75% participation in natural heritage-related policies, and 69% for cultural ones. On the other hand, South American countries do not participate so often in natural heritage policies, since only 20% of the countries gave a positive answer; South America reaches 60% of the countries, however, participating in wider cultural policies.

### **2.2.5 UNESCO Recommendations**

States Parties in the region are using UNESCO Recommendations, with different degrees of implementation. The 1972 Recommendation concerning the Protection, at the National level, of the Cultural and Natural Heritage, is used by 100% of States Parties in South America and Central America and Mexico, and by 75% of States Parties in the Caribbean.

The 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) is used by 80% (8) in the South America subregion and 62.5% (10) in the Caribbean, but only by 28.6% (2) in the Central America and Mexico subregion (Table 2.1).

**Table 2.1. Number of States Parties making use of UNESCO Recommendations in the Latin America and the Caribbean region**

Region/Subregion	1972 Recommendation concerning the Protection, at the National Level, of the Cultural and Natural Heritage	2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>20</b>
Caribbean	12	10
Central America and Mexico	7	2
South America	10	8

### 2.3 Tentative Lists

According to the information provided by State Parties, the World Heritage resource manual [Preparing World Heritage Nominations](#) is the most useful tool in the process of preparing their Tentative List to make a preliminary assessment of the potential Outstanding Universal Value. This is followed by the ICOMOS thematic studies and UNESCO's [Global Strategy for a Representative, Balanced and Credible World Heritage List](#). On the other hand [The World Heritage List: Future Priorities for a Credible and Complete List of Natural and Mixed Sites](#) by IUCN and other global comparative analyses are the least used: only one-third of the subregion mentioned those tools (Table 2.2).

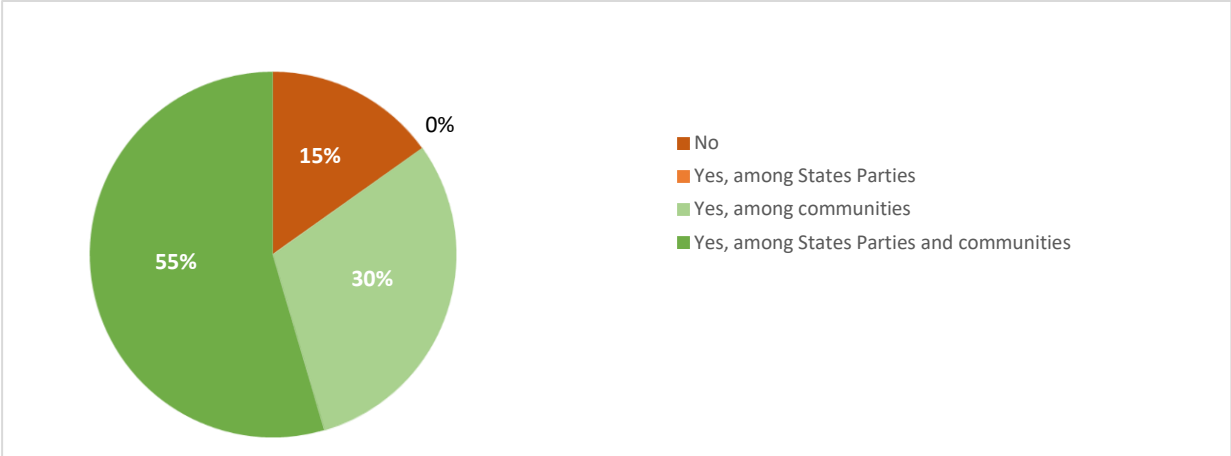
**Table 2.2. Number of States Parties, process of preparing Tentative List, using listed tools to make a preliminary assessment of the potential Outstanding Universal Value**

Region/Subregion	Caribbean	Central America and Mexico	South America	Total
ICOMOS thematic studies	9	5	9	<b>23</b>
IUCN thematic studies	6	4	6	<b>16</b>
Filling the Gaps – an Action Plan for the Future by ICOMOS	6	3	5	<b>14</b>
The World Heritage List: Future priorities for a Credible and Complete List of Natural and Mixed Sites by IUCN	5	2	4	<b>11</b>
Meetings to harmonize Tentative Lists within your region	7	2	5	<b>14</b>
UNESCO's Global Strategy for a Representative, Balanced and Credible World Heritage List	9	4	7	<b>20</b>
Other global comparative analyses	3	2	6	<b>11</b>
World Heritage Resource Manual 'Preparing World Heritage Nominations'	11	6	9	<b>26</b>
Other	6	1	3	<b>10</b>

With regard of utilizing the Upstream Process, which was implemented in 2010 to address challenges encountered by States Parties during the preparation of nominations, only 8 (24%)

of the States Parties indicated that they have already availed themselves of it in revising their Tentative List.

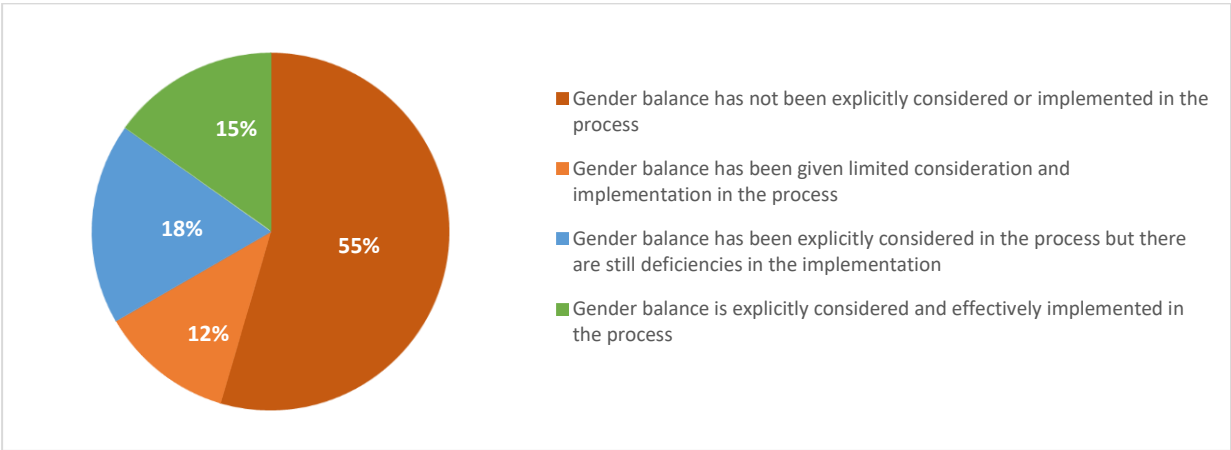
Taking into account the importance that the World Heritage Convention attaches to dialogue and cooperation, States Parties were asked if they consider that any of the properties included in their Tentative List have the potential to generate such dialogue. More than half of the responses (55%) consider that some properties could promote cooperation between the State Party and the communities, and 30% believe that it will improve dialogue between communities. However, it is significant that none of the countries consider that their Tentative List sites can foster cooperation between States Parties in the region (Figure 2.6).



**Figure 3.6.** Percentage of sites registered on the Tentative List that have the potential to generate dialogue and cooperation among States Parties and different communities

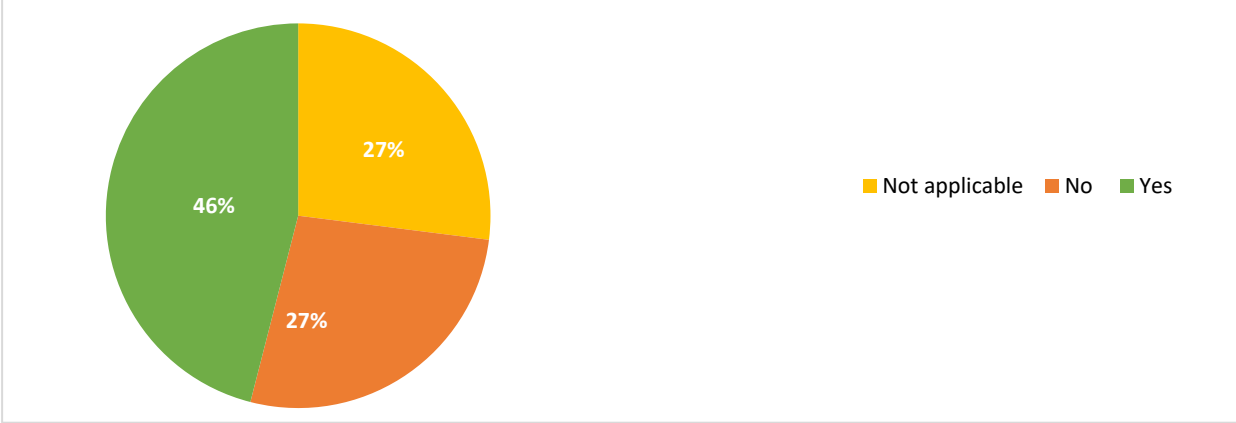
Regarding the involvement of stakeholders in the preparation of World Heritage Tentative Lists, the situation is similar in all the subregions: the national government institutions and World Heritage site managers lead this process with the collaboration of consultants and other experts. Other government departments and UNESCO National Commissions are also frequently involved, with a significant participation of the National Commissions in the Caribbean subregion. The lowest participation comes from Indigenous peoples, local communities, the local industries/tourist sector, commercial stakeholders and landowners.

According to the data obtained from State Parties, the gender balance in the preparation of the Tentative List has not been fully prioritized. Of the States Parties in the region, 55% reported that gender balance has not been explicitly considered or implemented in the process (Figure 2.7).



**Figure 2.7.** Percentage of States Parties with gender balanced contribution and participation of gender balance in the preparation of Tentative Lists

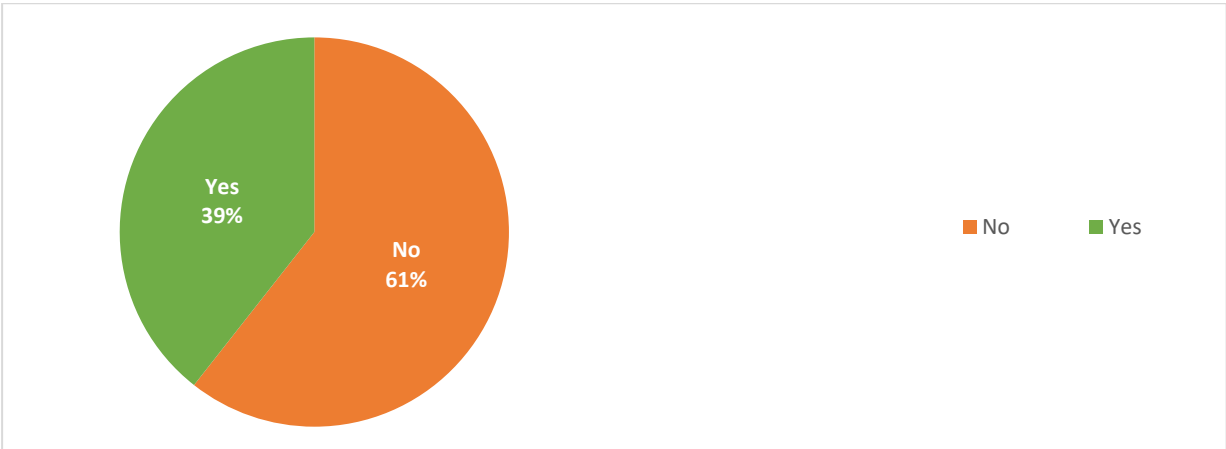
Regarding the sites in their Tentative Lists, 46% of the proposed properties are already benefitting from other international designations, notably under UNESCO Programmes or under the Ramsar Convention (Figure 2.8).



**Figure 2.8.** Sites on Tentative List already benefiting from other international designations either under other UNESCO Conventions/Programmes or under the Ramsar Convention

**2.4 Nominations**

In the process of nominating properties for inscription on the World Heritage List, site managers and national government institutions were the two entities most involved in the preparation of the most recent nomination dossiers, while landowners and local industries/tourist sector and commercial stakeholders were the least involved, closely followed by Indigenous peoples. In the whole region, only 39% of national Focal Points confirmed that a gender balanced contribution and participation had been explicitly considered and implemented in the preparation of the most recent nomination dossiers (Figure 2.9). This incorporation of gender balance is present in 44% of the Caribbean, 43% of the Central America and Mexico and 30% of South America States Parties. Trends in the stakeholders’ participation and gender balance in the nominations process are similar to those found in the preparation of the Tentative List.



**Figure 2.9.** Has a gender-balanced contribution and participation been considered and implemented in the preparation of the most recent nomination dossiers?

The perceived benefits of inscribing properties on the World Heritage List are mainly focused on the enhancement of honour and prestige, as well as the improved presentation of World Heritage properties, as the most important contribution from World Heritage properties recognized by State Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean. These results were quite similar among countries. On a second level, four responses received similar scores: the increasing number of tourists and visitors, the strengthened protection and conservation of heritage, enhanced conservation practices, and the enhanced wide community appreciation and participation in heritage processes. In this region, environmental sustainability, inclusion, social development and equity, more funding opportunities, and the promotion of peace and security, were the least perceived benefits (Table 2.3).

**Table 2.3. Number of States Parties rating the perceived benefits of inscribing properties on the World Heritage List**

Region/Subregion	Caribbean	Central America and Mexico	South America	Total
Promoted environmental sustainability, valuing places which are essential for human well-being	12	5	8	25
Enhanced inclusive social development, with full inclusion and equity for all stakeholders	10	5	8	23
Strengthened protection and conservation of heritage (legislative, regulatory, institutional and/or traditional)	13	7	10	30
Enhanced conservation practices	16	7	8	31
Enhanced wider community appreciation and participation in heritage processes	14	6	9	29
Improved presentation of sites	15	7	8	30
Enhanced honour/prestige	15	7	10	32
Increased funding	13	4	8	25
Additional tool for lobbying/political influence	10	5	7	22
Fostered peace and security, including promotion of partnerships and conservation	11	5	7	23
Increased number of tourists and visitors	13	7	9	29
Promoted inclusive economic development, including decent income and employment for communities	13	7	7	27
Other(s)	3	0	1	4

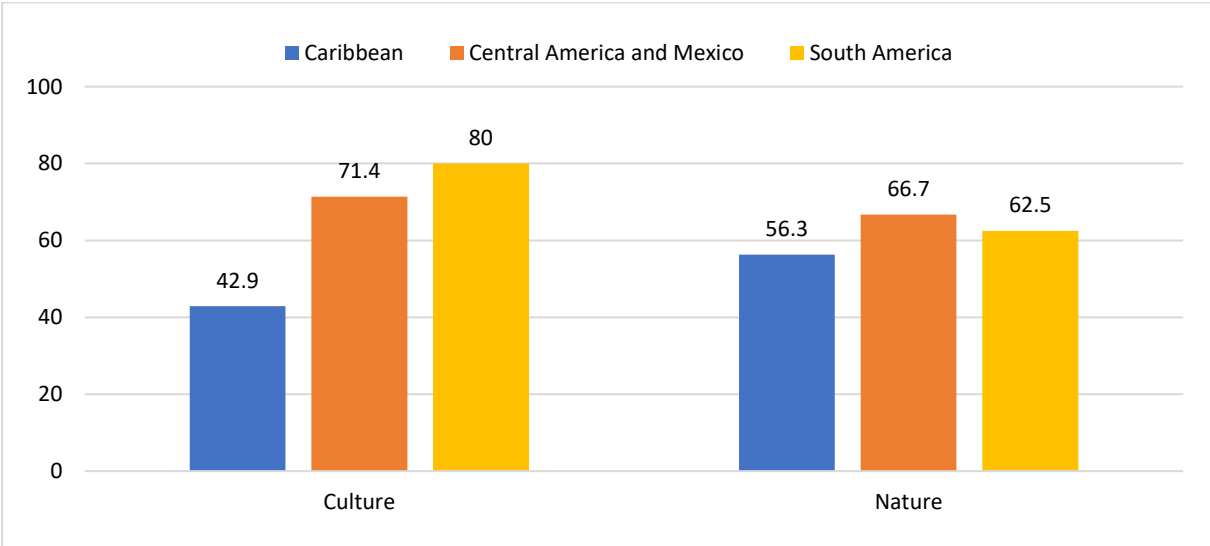
The questionnaire provided the opportunity to rate the extent to which the inscription of properties on the World Heritage List will contribute to achieving the objectives of the 2015 World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The benefits linked with the protection of biological and cultural diversity and ecosystem services are the most significant contribution made by the World Heritage properties in the three subregions, together with the promotion of economic investment and quality tourism. Then, strengthening resilience to natural hazards and climate change, and enhancing quality of

life and well-being, are also perceived as the contributions of World Heritage properties to sustainable development.

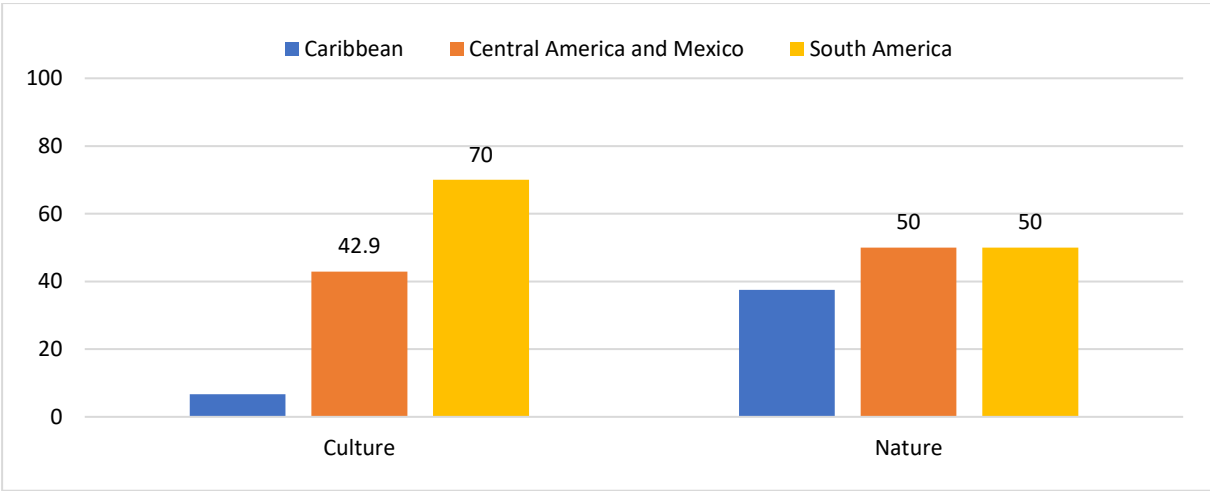
The State Parties indicated that conflict prevention and post-conflict recovery, and gender equality, are not perceived as important contributions from World Heritage properties. The latter could also be analysed in relation to the low gender balance in the preparation of Tentative Lists and nominations.

**2.5 General policy development**

According to the qualitative responses received by participants, the region has comprehensive and adequate policies and legal frameworks regarding natural and cultural heritage at country level. However, their implementation in the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage scores lower than their identification (Figures 2.10 and 2.11). The adequacy of the legal system is more evident in Central America and Mexico and South America than in the Caribbean subregion, where the scoring of the governmental representatives identifies that it may need some attention.



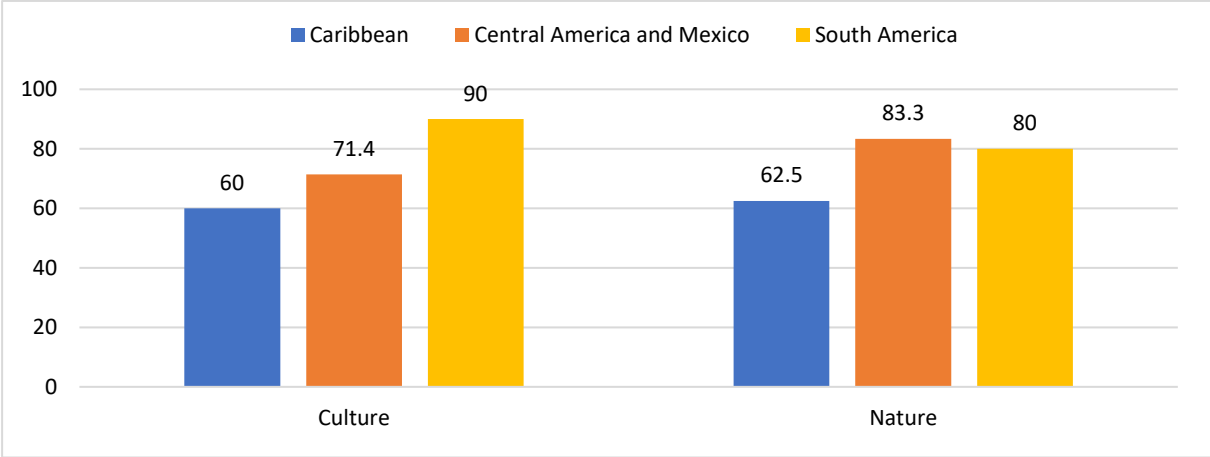
**Figure 2.10.** Adequacy of national legal frameworks for the **identification** of cultural and/or natural heritage





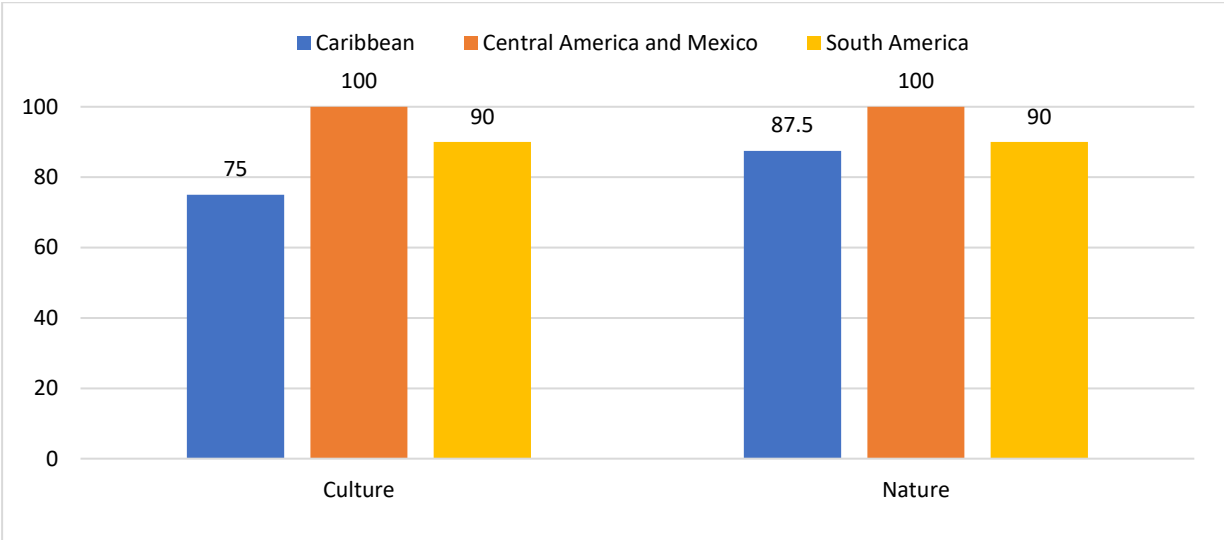
**Figure 2.11.** Adequacy of national legal frameworks for the **conservation** of cultural and/or natural heritage

When asked about the possibility of enforcing the legal framework, a clear majority of States Parties responded that there is no effective capacity/resources to enforce the legal framework and that existing capacity/resources could be strengthened. Responses were more likely to identify the possibility of enforcement in Central America and Mexico (Figure 2.12).



**Figure 2.12.** States Parties reported on the possibility of enforcing the legal framework (i.e. legislation and/or regulations) for the conservation and protection of cultural and/or natural heritage

The questionnaire included the idea of how national policies give cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of communities, a key objective of the 1972 Recommendation. Of the 33 States Parties, 20 considered that they do have specific policies but identified deficiencies in their implementation. Four countries opted for the response that stated that, apart from having the specific policies, they are effective in cultural properties; and five countries in natural properties. Conversely, nine countries in the region reported that there are no specific policies to give heritage a function in the life of communities, but that this is being achieved on an ad hoc basis (Figure 2.13).



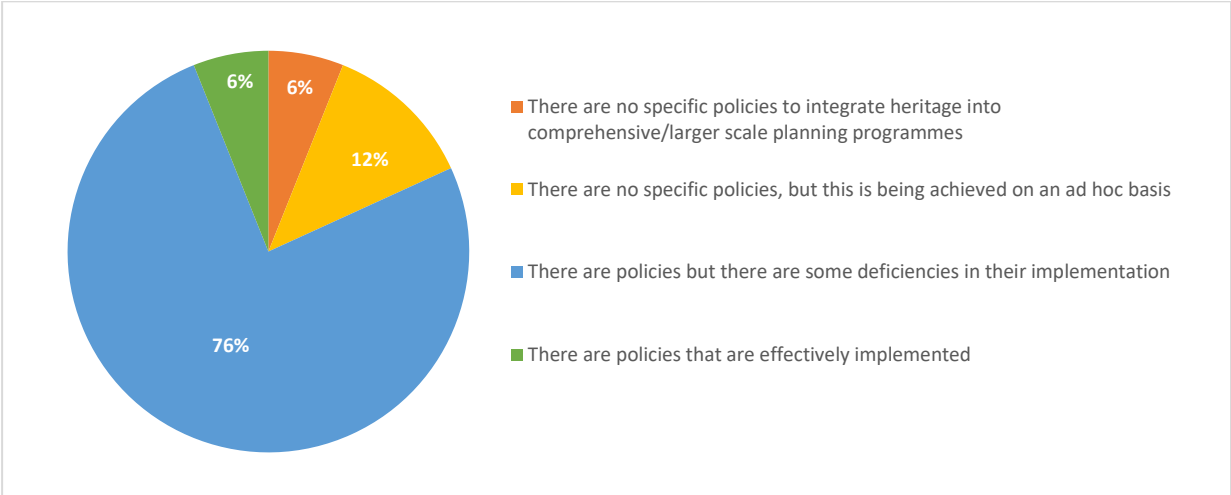
**Figure 2.13.** Percentage of States Parties considering the policies in place are giving cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of communities

Looking at the integration of the conservation and protection of heritage as a strategic element in national sustainable policies, States Parties identified that heritage is integrated into the protection of biological and cultural diversity and providing ecosystem services and benefits (30 States Parties), and strengthening resilience to natural hazards and climate change the resilience to climate change (30 States Parties), followed by the promotion of economic investments and quality tourism (28 States Parties) as the key contributors to sustainable development strategies, together with the contribution to inclusion and equality (27 States Parties).

The less considered aspects regarding these strategic elements are the protection of the heritage in case of conflict (8 States Parties), the promotion of conflict resolution (11 States Parties) and the contribution to post-conflict recovery (11 States Parties). In any case, these aspects have subregional differences, since Central America and Mexico gave greater consideration to aspects of conflict and recovery than the other subregions.

The 2011 Historic Urban Landscape Recommendation is being currently considered by States Parties in the implementation of the Convention: 16 States Parties reported that they have adapted the Recommendation to the national specific context, but differences among subregions arise as this is clear for only 31.25% of the Caribbean responses while it reaches 60% in South America and 71.43% in Central America and Mexico.

In addition, it is interesting to consider that 76% of participants identified that policies for the integration of the protection of cultural and natural heritage into larger scale planning programmes at national level exist, but that the implementation is showing deficiencies. Very far from that number, with 12% of the answers, some participants considered that, even if they do not have those policies integrated into comprehensive planning programmes, it is being achieved on an ad hoc basis (Figure 2.14).



**Figure 2.14.** How effectively does the State Party integrate the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage into comprehensive/larger scale planning programmes?

Looking to policies and strategies agreed by the World Heritage Convention governing bodies, the Strategy for Reducing Risks from Disasters at World Heritage Properties is the most considered in national strategies and policies, mentioned by 26 countries (100% of Central America and Mexico, 80% of South America and 68.75% of the Caribbean). After that, the World Heritage Sustainable Development Policy and the Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties are considered by 23 countries in the region. The World

Heritage Capacity Building Strategy is the least mentioned document, followed by only 56.25% of the Caribbean countries, 50% of South America and 42.86% in Central America and Mexico. It is interesting to look at the information that confirms that in 78% of the countries, there is limited coordination and integration of the implementation of these multilateral agreements, programmes and World Heritage policies and strategies into national policies (Figure 2.15).



**Figure 2.15.** Implementation of multilateral agreements, programmes and World Heritage policies and strategies coordinated and integrated into the development of national policies for the conservation, protection and presentation of cultural and natural heritage

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

The inventories, lists and registers of cultural and natural heritage are one of the main tools implemented by State Parties, especially those covering the national level. Inventories at national level for cultural heritage were reported by 22 States Parties in the region (Table 2.4) with 19 reporting inventories for natural heritage (Table 2.5).

**Table 2.4. Number of States Parties that have already established inventories/lists/registers of cultural heritage and level of compilation**

Region/Subregion	Culture			
	National/Federal	Regional/Provincial	Local	Other
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>
Caribbean	11	5	5	1
Central America and Mexico	5	3	1	0
South America	6	3	4	0

**Table 2.5. States Parties that have already established inventories/lists/registers of natural heritage and level of compilation**

Region/Subregion	Nature			
	National/Federal	Regional/Provincial	Local	Other
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>

Caribbean	9	3	4	1
Central America and Mexico	4	3	0	0
South America	6	4	4	0

In South America and Central America and Mexico, all countries identified that the inventories are adequate to capture the diversity of cultural and natural heritage. For the Caribbean, this statement applies to 80% of the countries; 20 countries also confirm that they use these inventories and registers to protect the identified cultural and natural heritage.

In addition to heritage practitioners and academic institutions, the State Parties in the region consider that they involve communities and Indigenous peoples, identifying this involvement as 'regular' or 'sometimes' in 91% of the region for cultural heritage and 88% for natural heritage, meaning that the involvement of these key stakeholders would be extended in the region for the identification of heritage to be included in those inventories.

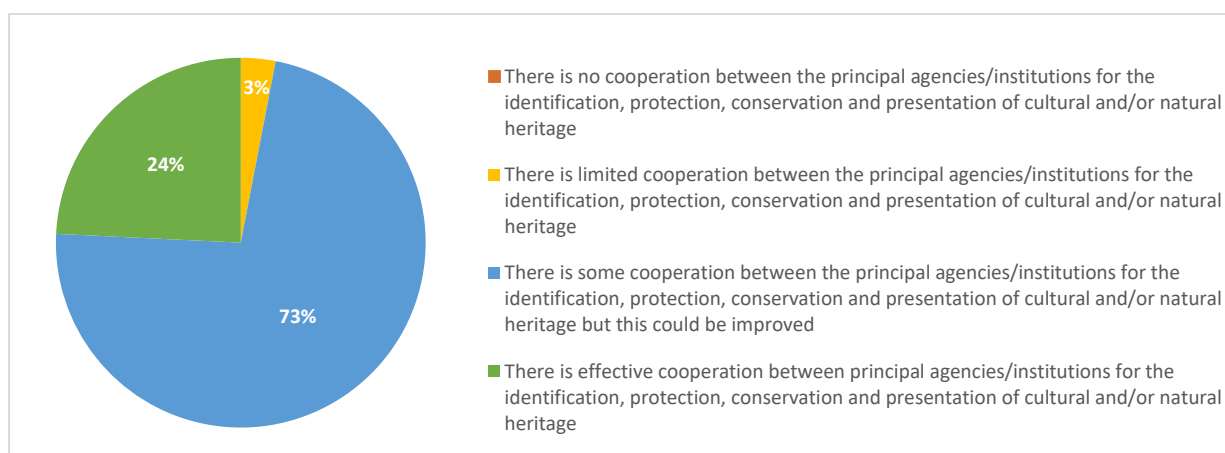
For the preparation and updating processes of the national Tentative Lists, Latin America and Caribbean national Focal Points do tend to use those inventories and registers, ranging between 75% and 100% in the region.

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

The following analysis is based on three levels of inter-agency and stakeholder cooperation in the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of the natural and cultural heritage. There are:

- Among the principal agencies/institutions responsible for cultural and natural heritage;
- Between other government agencies/institutions and the principal agencies/institutions responsible for cultural and natural heritage;
- Between principal and other government agencies/institutions with all segments of civil society.

At the first level, 73% of responses identify that there is some cooperation between the main agencies and institutions in charge of heritage in the region, with similar numbers by subregion, but that it could be improved (Figure 2.16).



**Figure 2.16.** Level of cooperation between the principal agencies/institutions responsible for cultural and/or natural heritage in the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of this heritage

States Parties (61%) report that in general there is cooperation with other government agencies and the principal heritage institutions, but that there are deficiencies. Only two States Parties in the Caribbean and one in Central America and Mexico considered that that cooperation is effective and includes all principal agencies (Figure 2.17).



**Figure 2.17.** Level of cooperation between other government agencies and the principal agencies/institutions in the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of cultural and/or natural heritage

With respect to the involvement of different levels of government, the region tends to report that there is cooperation, but with some deficiencies. In any case, all the subregions show that intergovernmental cooperation reaches around 80–85% of the States Parties.

The next level is the identification of the cooperation between the government and the diverse segments of civil society. In general, the most selected response shows that there is some cooperation with the civil society for the identification of heritage, getting some cooperation or effective cooperation for 28 countries in the region. Some differences are identified by subregion: South America tends to include civil society more clearly, whereas Central America and Mexico reported a lower participation.

**2.8 Financial status and human resources**

The funding sources to support the conservation and protection of natural and cultural heritage are not very diversified and are highly dependent on the financing capabilities of governmental institutions.

With regard to national government funds, 100% of the national governments of Central America and Mexico and South America are the major sources of funding for the protection of heritage, but this figure drops to 50% in the Caribbean.

The Caribbean receives funding in more direct ways than other subregions, from international multilateral funding and international bilateral funding, together with sources from other international conventions. Taking into consideration the comments made by national Focal Points through questionnaires, the Caribbean subregion reports that although some funds of States Parties are dedicated to the conservation of cultural and natural heritage, and that they may have grown in recent years, they remain seriously inadequate, and the result is a dependency on grant applications and project writing to source funding.

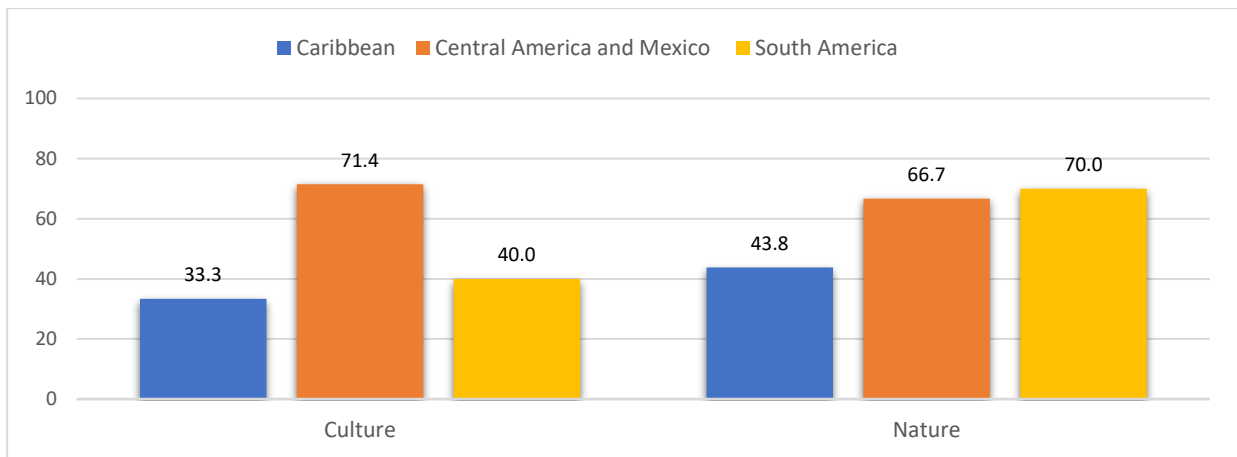
In South America and Central America and Mexico, international bilateral funding and the private sector are considered minor sources or non-existing sources. Central America and Mexico receive international multilateral funding for 57.14% of the countries.

**Table 2.6. Number of States Parties reporting sources of funding for the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage in their country**

Region/Subregion	Caribbean	Central America and Mexico	South America	Total
National government funds	8	7	10	25
Other levels of government (provincial, state, local)	1	1	4	6
International assistance from the World Heritage Fund	3	2	2	7
Funds from other international conventions/programmes	6	1	1	8
International multilateral funding (e.g. World Bank, IDB, European Union, etc.)	7	4	2	13
International bilateral funding (e.g. AFD, GIZ, DGCS, GEF, etc.)	6	3	1	10
Non-governmental organizations (international and/or national)	4	2	2	8
Private sector funds	4	0	1	5
Other	1	0	1	2

Most of the countries of Central America and Mexico and South America have policies to allocate site revenues for the conservation and protection of heritage. These results are lower in the Caribbean, where countries only report the reallocation of this type of site revenue in 44% of the countries for the cultural heritage, and in 56% for the natural.

Regarding the current budget for the protection and conservation of heritage, in Central America and Mexico, the current budget is almost acceptable for cultural (71%) and natural heritage (67%) but could be further improved to fully meet needs. South America offers quite different results by type of heritage: the natural heritage budget seems appropriate for 70% of the subregion, while it is only the case for 40% of the South American countries for cultural heritage. The Caribbean, with a third of States Parties representing the region, receives adequate funds for cultural heritage, and 44% of the countries consider the budget adequate for the natural heritage (Figure 2.18). Among other issues, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a considerable drop in the budget for cultural heritage conservation and technical training in the subregions.

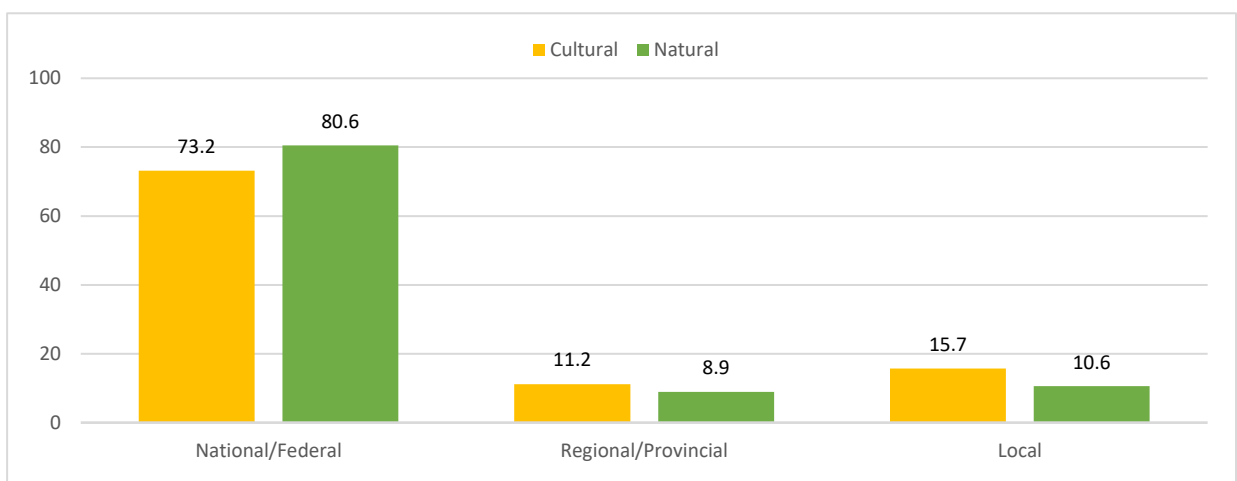


**Figure 2.18.** Percentage of States Parties reporting that the current budget is sufficient to conserve, protect and present cultural and natural heritage effectively

States Parties reported that the percentage of total annual public expenditure spent on heritage is very low, with a slightly better scoring for Central America and Mexico. Despite this, the amount of funding allocated is considered insufficient for the conservation and protection of national heritage.

The average total expenditure spent on heritage conservation in the region is less than 1% of national budget. This question was particularly challenging to understand, and a few countries reported very high percentages of up to 68% of annual public expenditure on heritage conservation, which is not reflective of the actual situation.

Moving on to human resources for heritage protection, the majority of the region mentioned that available human resources are inadequate or suboptimal. Only two countries considered that their human resources are adequate to meet current needs, one from the Caribbean and one from Central America and Mexico.



**Figure 2.19.** Percentage of total annual public expenditure spent on cultural and natural heritage at each governmental level

## 2.9 Capacity development

Considering the 26 different options given to the States Parties on different thematic needs, this is the list of priorities identified by participants:

- Risk preparedness and disaster risk management appears as the first priority, with 25 countries (75.76%) identifying it for the cultural heritage, and 20 for the natural (60.60%). It is closely followed by the conservation and management of heritage sites, which was considered by 23 States Parties in the case of cultural heritage (69.7%) and 19 countries for natural heritage (57.57%).
- Strengthening resilience to natural hazards and climate change adaptation and mitigation is also of concern for participants: 21 States Parties (63.64%) for the cultural heritage and 19 countries for the natural heritage (57.57%) marked this response.
- Impact assessment tools (environmental, heritage and social) is identified by 20 countries for cultural heritage (60.60%). But it only reaches 42.42%, 14 countries, when considering the impact assessments regarding natural heritage.
- Capacity-building should be addressed at the national or federal level, following the responses received by participants, since more than half of participants identified this response in their participation.

By subregion, it is interesting to identify that, in general, similar results are obtained through Latin America and Caribbean, but there are some specificities that could be highlighted:

- With 10 positive answers (62.5%) regarding cultural heritage in the Caribbean, SIDS in this subregion include in their priorities that 'Governance: legislative, institutional and financial frameworks and mechanisms' should be a part of their capacity-building programmes.
- For South America, inclusive economic development in World Heritage management systems appears among the priorities, with 80% of the countries selecting this option for cultural heritage, and 70% for natural. This could be also linked to the engagement of the local community, for example.
- In Central America and Mexico, together with risk preparedness, the most selected option has been 'Statutory processes: reporting and monitoring', with 71.43% of the responses for cultural heritage in that subregion and 57.14% for natural.

At the other end of the scale, the least considered needs for capacity-development are the World Heritage as an enabler and a driver of peace, gender balance in management systems and the adoption of rights-based approaches to heritage management, obtaining only 18–30% of the responses from the questionnaires.

Looking to the target audiences for these training processes, administrators and government bodies at all levels attract the most attention in the responses from national Focal Points. In order of priority, when considered as 'high priority' by States Parties, these administrators should be trained in areas such as:

- Conservation and management of heritage sites (27)
- Implementation of the Convention (26)
- Building environmental and social resilience (26)
- Adaptation to and mitigation of climate change (26)



- Risk preparedness and disaster risk management (25)

For communities, Indigenous peoples, landowners, local businesses and other social groups are given high priority in capacity-building related to 'Adaptation to and mitigation of climate change' (21) and 'Building environmental and social resilience' (20). Universities and NGOs are considered possibilities for training in adaptation to and mitigation of climate change (21) and sustainable development (19). For heritage practitioners, conservation and management of heritage sites and risk preparedness and disaster risk management would be the priorities, getting 20 positive responses.

It is clear that States Parties identified the different level of involvement of those stakeholders, since the responses for some key aspects offer a clear picture of the governance and participation at properties. As an example, 'Management approaches and methodologies' is considered by 22 countries as high priority for government bodies, while this only gets 5 positive answers when relating it to communities. Similar numbers are obtained for 'Reporting and monitoring', considered by 22 countries for government bodies and only 7 for communities.

'Sustainable development' (85 responses), 'Adaptation to and mitigation of climate change' (79 responses) and 'Risk preparedness' got the highest scores (79 responses), for all categories of stakeholders combined.

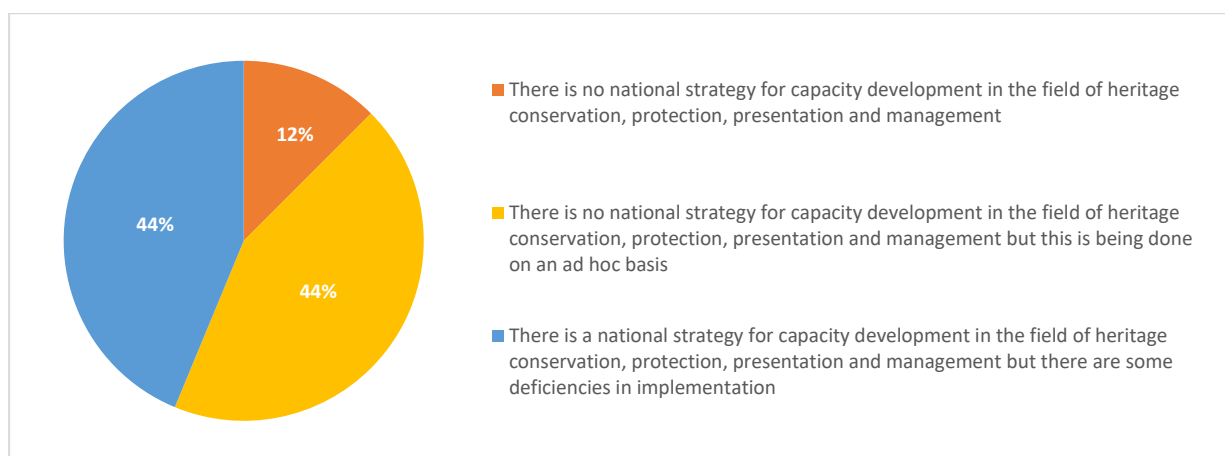
**Table 2.7. Number of States Parties reporting on the prioritization of their capacity-building needs**

Capacity-building needs	Administrators and government bodies at all levels	Communities Indigenous peoples, landowners, local businesses, other social groups etc.	Universities, NGOs etc.	Heritage practitioners
Implementation of the Convention	26	18	12	17
Statutory processes: Tentative Lists	21	13	8	12
Statutory processes: Nominations	22	13	8	15
Statutory processes: Reporting and monitoring	22	7	8	12
Statutory processes: International assistance	17	8	9	8
Conservation and management of heritage sites	27	15	17	20
Technical and scientific issues	18	7	18	13
Traditional conservation processes	18	14	12	15
Sustainable resource utilization and management	23	17	13	16
Interpretation/communication of World Heritage properties	21	11	11	15
Risk preparedness and disaster risk management	25	18	16	20
Impact assessment tools (environmental, heritage and social)	23	13	13	17
Sustainable tourism use and management	22	19	15	19
Management effectiveness assessment	24	9	10	14

Management approaches and methodologies (including HUL)	22	5	10	13
Awareness raising and outreach	19	13	13	16
Governance: legislative, institutional and financial frameworks and mechanisms	24	10	12	14
Sustainable development	24	19	19	17
Building environmental and social resilience	26	20	17	16
Integration of eco-social diversity in management systems	19	17	15	16
Adoption of rights-based approaches to heritage management	17	13	13	14
Development of inclusive, equitable and effective management systems	21	15	14	17
Adaptation to and mitigation of climate change	26	21	21	17

With regard to existing resources in the region, 25 States Parties are using the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (2011) by raising awareness about the need to conserve and manage cultural and natural heritage; 21 States Parties reported that the Capacity-building Strategy serves to identify capacity-building priorities. This Strategy does not provide help in supporting the countries with fundraising needs, according the responses of the participants.

The questionnaire also provides information about existing national capacity-building strategies. The region is divided into 2 groups: 14 countries (42.42%) do not have any national strategy, although they do capacity-building on an ad hoc basis, while another 14 countries have a national strategy, but identify deficiencies in implementation. Three States Parties in the Caribbean and one in South America report not having any national strategy for capacity development in the field of heritage.



**Figure 2.20.** Percentage of States Parties reporting that they have/do not have a national training/educational strategy to strengthen capacity development in the field of heritage conservation, protection, presentation and management

## 2.10 Policy and resourcing of World Heritage properties

All States Parties in the region reported that the services provided by agencies/institutions have the capacity to protect, conserve, present and manage the World Heritage properties in their

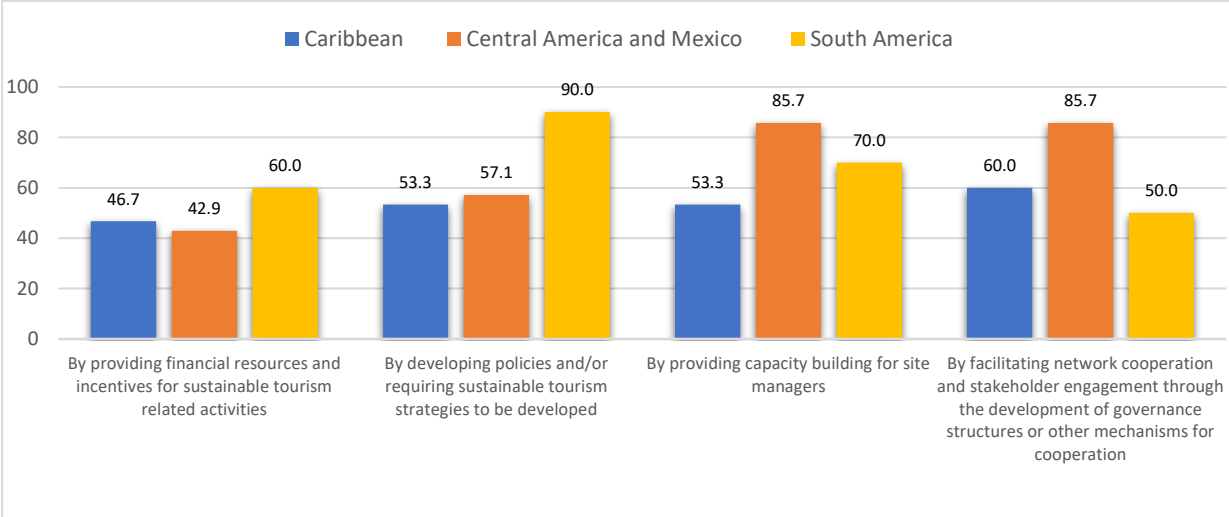
respective territories. However, 10 of them reported that ‘some deficiencies’ remained and 17 reported that ‘significant deficiencies’ remained. Five States Parties (three in the Caribbean, one in Central America and Mexico and one in South America) reported that there is adequate capacity within services.



**Figure 2.21.** Percentage of States Parties that reported on their capacity to protect, conserve, present and manage World Heritage properties

When asked about the ways in which the State Party encourages and supports World Heritage properties to manage and develop visitation and tourism sustainably, Focal Points in the region identified different options, with some subregional differences. In South America, nine out of ten States Parties develop policies requiring sustainable tourism strategies to be developed, while that option is reported at 50% in the Caribbean and 57.1% in Central America and Mexico.

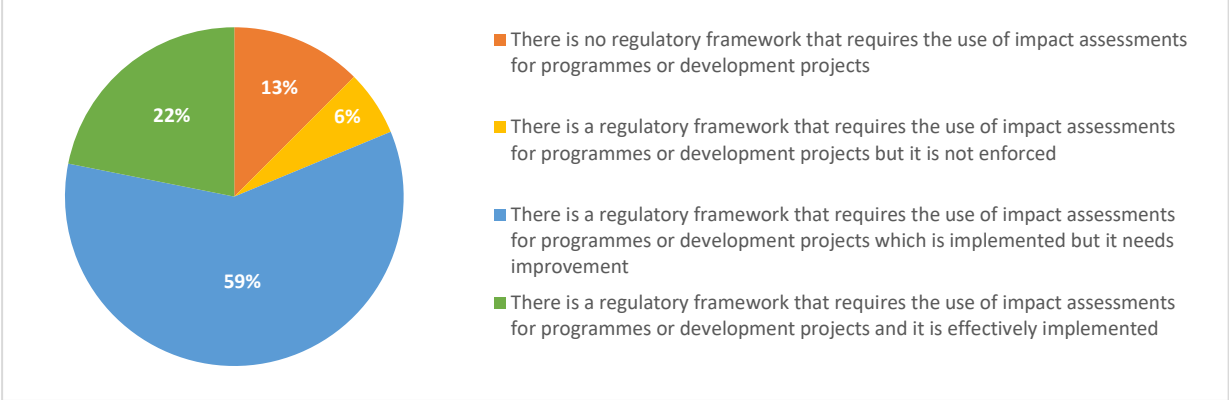
States Parties reported to encourage and support World Heritage properties to manage and develop visitation/tourism sustainably by providing capacity-building training to site managers. This concerns 21 States Parties in the region. States Parties also reported that facilitating network cooperation and stakeholder engagement through the development of governance structures also encourages and supports World Heritage properties to manage and develop tourism sustainability, with 85.7% of the responses in Central America and Mexico, 60% in the Caribbean and 50% in South America.



**Figure 2.22.** States Parties reported on the different strategies developed to encourage and support World Heritage properties to manage and develop visitation/tourism sustainably

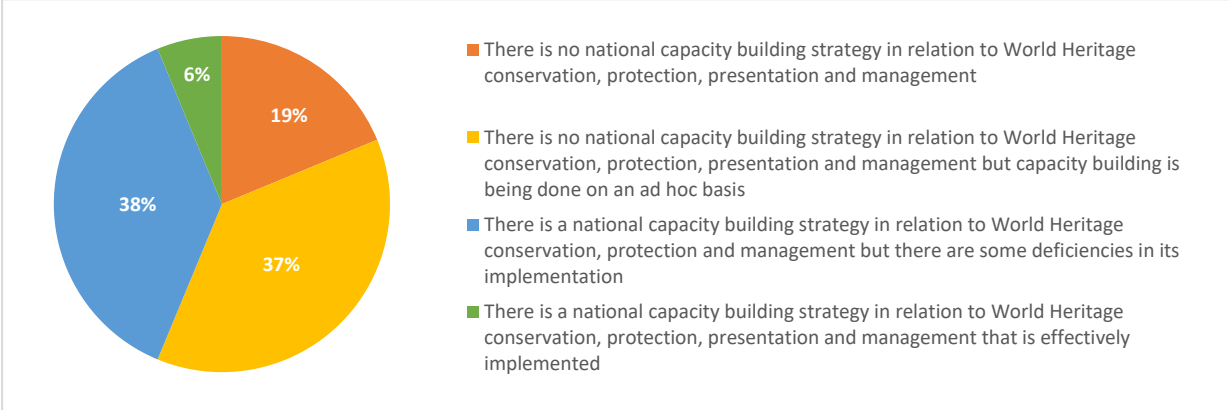
The use of impact assessments for programmes (e.g. strategic environmental assessments) or development projects (e.g. environmental impact assessments, heritage impact assessments) is more and more requested and considered as an effective tool for the prevention of problems

and the sustainable conservation of heritage. In the region, 59% of the countries reported having a regulatory framework including the use of impact assessment, but they conceded that it needs improvement. There are still four States Parties in the region – two from South America and two from the Caribbean – that do not have any regulatory framework in place. On the more positive side, seven States Parties identified that their legal framework is effectively implemented regarding impact assessments (two in Central America and Mexico, two in South America and three in the Caribbean).



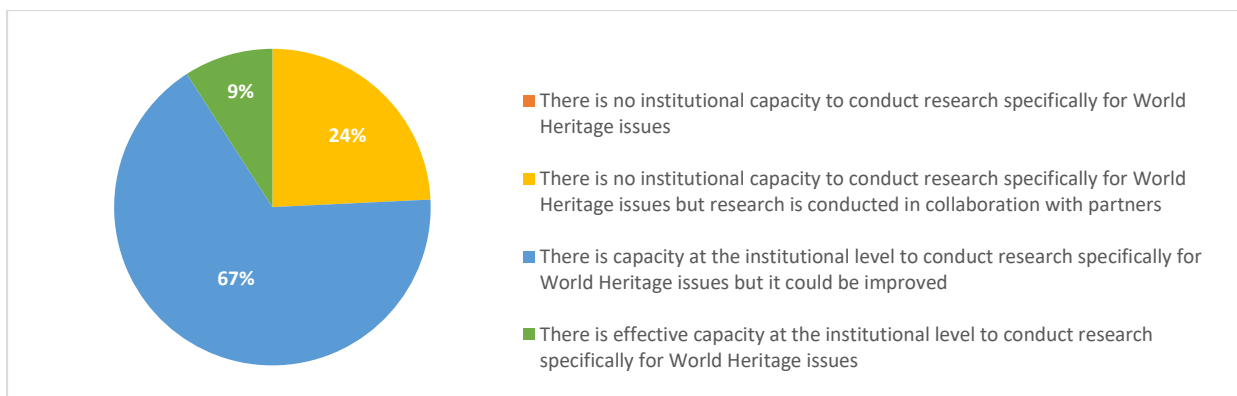
**Figure 2.23.** Percentage of States Parties that require the use of impact assessments for programmes that may have an impact on the World Heritage property, its buffer zone and the wider setting

For 12 State Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean, there is a national capacity-building strategy in relation to World Heritage conservation, protection, presentation and management, but they identify deficiencies in its implementation; 12 other States Parties reported that, even if they do not have a national strategy, they do capacity-building on an ad hoc basis.



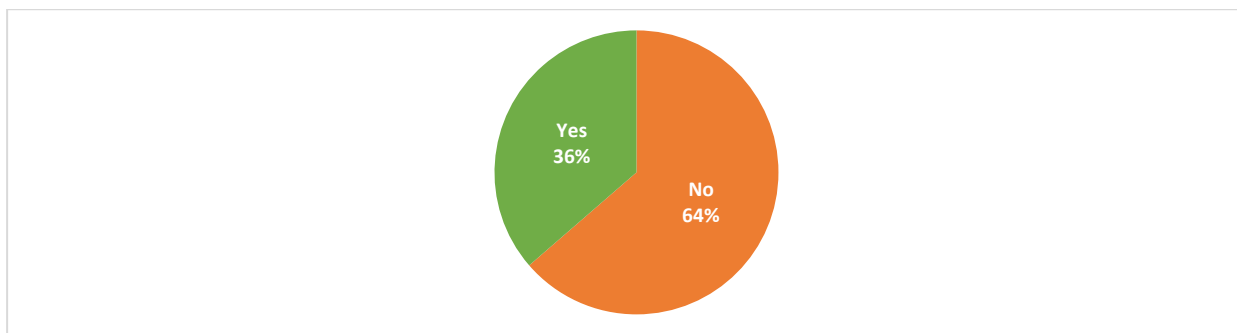
**Figure 2.24.** Percentage of States Parties that have a national capacity-building strategy for World Heritage conservation, protection, presentation and management

In general, States Parties considered that there is capacity at the institutional level to conduct research specifically for World Heritage issues, but that this could be improved (22 out of 33 countries). This response attracted 80% of the answers in South America, 71% in Central America and Mexico, and 56% in the Caribbean.



**Figure 2.25.** Percentage of States Parties that have the institutional capacity to conduct research specifically for World Heritage issues

Most States Parties reported not helping in establishing national, public and private foundations or associations for raising funds and receiving donations for the protection of World Heritage at national level.



**Figure 2.26.** Percentage of States Parties that helped to establish national, public and private foundations or associations for raising funds and receiving donations for the protection of World Heritage

## 2.11 International cooperation

States Parties from the three subregions have made significant progress in the promotion of international cooperation in the conservation and protection of heritage. Based on the information provided, there are differences in the mechanisms implemented to achieve these goals (Table 2.8):

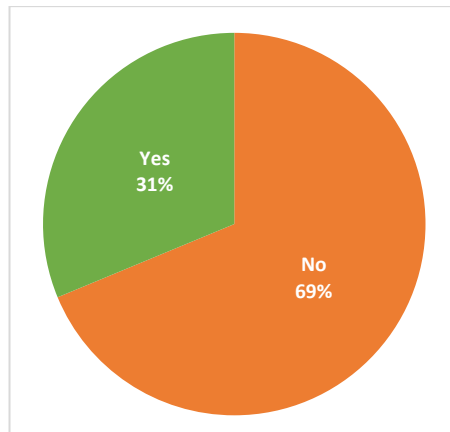
- Hosting and/or attending international training courses/seminars is considered as a key aspect in 27 countries, comprising 90% of South America, 87.5% of the Caribbean and 57.14% of Central America and Mexico.
- Bilateral and multilateral agreements are also important for 22 States Parties, notably 80% for South America.
- Sharing expertise for capacity-building was selected by 20 countries as third most important: 60% for South America and 56.25% for the Caribbean, but less for Central America and Mexico.
- Distribution of material and information and sharing expertise to promote equitable participation in heritage mechanisms for communities were each identified by 19 participants, closely followed by 18 positive answers for 'Financial support'.

Coordination with the private sector and with international foundations, and participation in UN programmes were the least prioritized.

**Table 2.8. State Parties reporting on the promotion of international cooperation and establishment of cooperation mechanisms for heritage since the last Periodic Report by indicating the type of cooperation that best describes their activities**

Region/Subregion	Caribbean	Central America and Mexico	South America	Total
Hosting and/or attending international training courses/seminars	14	4	9	27
Bilateral and multilateral agreements	9	5	8	22
Sharing expertise for capacity-building	8	3	9	20
Distribution of material/information	8	4	7	19
Sharing expertise to promote equitable participation in heritage mechanisms for communities	9	4	6	19
Financial support	7	4	7	18
Participation in other UN programmes, including sustainable development programmes and human rights and gender equality programmes	8	2	5	15
Contributions to private organizations for the preservation of cultural and natural heritage	4	1	4	9
Participation in foundations for international cooperation	3	1	4	8
No cooperation	0	0	1	1
Other	2	0	1	3

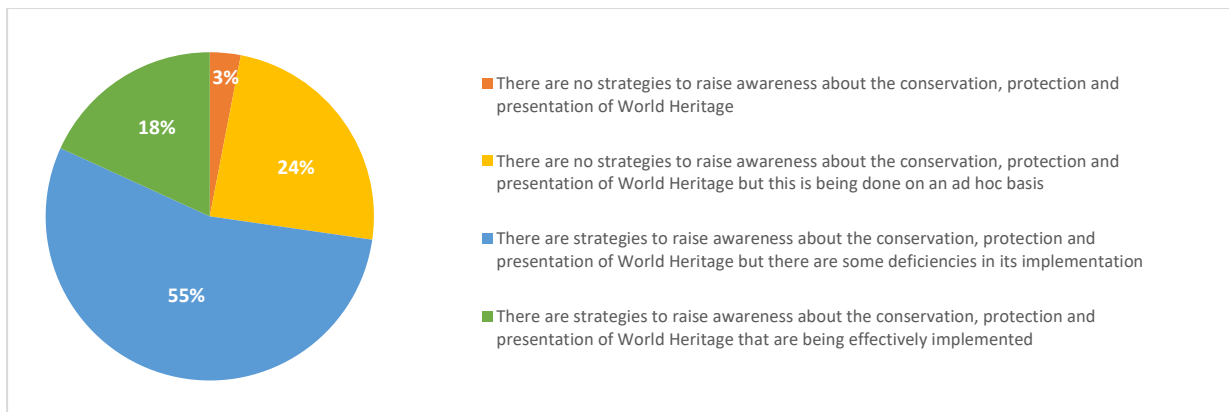
Nearly 70% of the States Parties reported that they do not twin World Heritage properties with others at a national or international level (Figure 2.27). This option is better implemented in South America, where six out of ten States Parties reported to have undertaken this initiative. Looking at the comments from participants, a number of States Parties reported to have started a dialogue over twinning possibilities with other World Heritage properties within or beyond the region. Some States Parties would be interested in participating in World Heritage site twinning programmes and suggested that such an initiative be led by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. Some national Focal Points reported that since the Covid-19 pandemic, they have sought to strengthen solidarity and multilateral cooperation, in order to establish common regional projects and methodologies for the conservation of the World Heritage.



**Figure 2.27.** Percentage of World Heritage properties in the region that have been twinned with others at a national or international level

## 2.12 Education, information and awareness building

According to the information provided, more than 70% of the States Parties have implemented strategies to raise awareness about World Heritage; however more than half (55%) reported that the strategies are being implemented with some deficiencies. This is the case for nine States Parties in Caribbean (56.2%), four in Central America and Mexico (57.1%) and 50% of the States Parties in South America. In South America, 30% of States Parties mentioned that their education strategies are effectively implemented. Looking to countries where raising awareness is done on an ad hoc basis, five States Parties from Caribbean confirmed that this was the case (31.25%) (Figure 2.28).

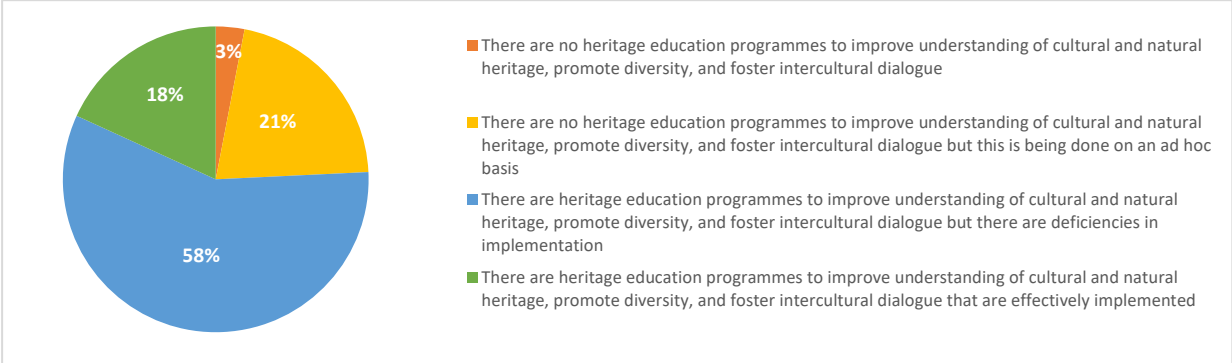


**Figure 2.28.** Percentage of States Parties that reported having a strategy to raise awareness among communities and different stakeholders about the conservation, protection and presentation of World Heritage

Regarding social groups, the tourism industry obtained the highest score with regard to the level of general awareness about World Heritage, very closely followed by communities living in and around the properties. In third place, decision-makers and public officials have a great awareness level. By subregions, it is meaningful that all the Caribbean countries mentioned the tourism industry, identifying the strong connection heritage management and tourism can have in those countries.

Communities seem to have a good level of awareness according to 90% of responses in South America, 85.71% in Central America and Mexico and 81.2% in the Caribbean. Central America and Mexico reports decision-makers being informed as 'fair' and 'good' in all the countries.

Heritage education is a key aspect and objective of the Convention. Latin America and Caribbean representatives reconfirm that they do have heritage education programmes addressed to children and youth, and that they improve the understanding about heritage, but identify deficiencies in their implementation in 19 countries. Seven other countries also report an ad hoc response for these heritage educational programmes (Figure 2.29).



**Figure 2.29.** Percentage of States Parties with heritage education programmes for children and/or youth, that contribute to improving understanding of heritage, promoting diversity and fostering intercultural dialogue

The most frequent activities for children and youth-oriented heritage education are the organized school visits to World Heritage properties (63.6% of the region). On the other hand, the World Heritage in Young Hands Kit is not being implemented in the region.

Along the same lines, 25 countries reported that their State Party does not participate in UNESCO’s World Heritage in Young Hands programme (Figure 2.30). Among them, 11 States Parties affirmed that they intend to do so. One country from the Caribbean (Cuba) integrates that programme in the school curriculums.

These data identify that existing World Heritage educational tools are not sufficiently well-known, and that some action in this sense could improve the implementation of these mechanisms in the region.



**Figure 2.30.** Percentage of States Parties that have participated in UNESCO’s World Heritage in Young Hands programme

**2.13 Conclusions and recommended actions**

States Parties were invited to provide information about the actions they have taken regarding their implementation of the World Heritage Convention. The top issues identified and priorities for assessment can be summarized as follows (Table 2.9):



**Table 2.9. Number of States Parties identifying the top issues at a national level**

Top issues	Caribbean	Central America and Mexico	South America	Total
National training/educational strategy to strengthen capacity development in the field of heritage conservation, protection, presentation and management	15	7	10	32
Capacity-building – Use of the 2011 Capacity Building Strategy	15	6	10	31
Promotion international cooperation and the establishment of cooperation mechanisms for heritage	11	6	9	26
Implementation of multilateral agreements, programmes and World Heritage policies and strategies coordinated and integrated into the development of national policies for the conservation, protection and presentation of cultural and natural heritage	12	5	8	25
Adequate budget to conserve, protect and present cultural and natural heritage effectively	9	2	6	17
National capacity-building strategy for World Heritage conservation, protection, presentation and management	8	3	5	16
Integration of conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage, at national level, as a strategic element in national sustainable development policies and strategies	6	3	5	14
Give cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of communities	7	2	2	11
Make use of the provisions of the 1972 Recommendation and the 2011 Recommendation to set policies or strategies for the protection of cultural and natural heritage	3	5	2	10
Adequate human resources to conserve, protect and present cultural and natural heritage effectively	8	1	0	9
Adequacy of services provided by agencies/institutions for the protection, conservation, presentation and management of World Heritage properties	5	3	1	9

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

Chapter 14 of the questionnaire (Section I) provides an opportunity for States Parties to offer an example of good practice in World Heritage protection, identification, conservation or management implemented at national level.

Several States Parties, notably in the Caribbean subregion, identified as a good practice the level of protection that is associated with a World Heritage inscription. Guyana mentioned the implementation of the guidelines for the protection of monuments and sites, as developed by the National Trust of Guyana.

Concerning governance systems, Barbados reported on the establishment of the Barbados World Heritage Committee as a best practice. This has afforded the various entities involved in care, management and maintenance of the property the opportunity to collaborate on its management and implementation of the Convention, through its Technical Committee. Jamaica also offers a good practice in the involvement of different stakeholders for the management of the Blue and John Crow Mountains World Heritage property, including the agent responsible for its management, which is an NGO. Cuba shared different community-based practices, such as the community care programme for the population of Old Havana and the community tourism strategy in the Viñales Valley. Saint Kitts and Nevis reported the development of a World

Heritage Disaster Management Plan for the Brimstone Hill Fortress National Park. The Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago and Jodensavanne Archaeological Site in Suriname were also mentioned, among others.

The good practices reported by many States Parties from Central America and Mexico focused on sustainable development and management. This was relevant for Costa Rica and Honduras, with examples related to management and conservation plans; the conservation of natural heritage through protected areas for Panama; large-scale projects that improve alliances among governmental institutions and international cooperation for El Salvador; intergovernmental cooperation for Nicaragua; and Guatemala reported good practices in conservation concession in Biosphere Reserves (in the specific case of Maya Biosphere Reserve).

In South America, the good practices reported are related to networking and capacity-building for youth and children, with a special focus on rural areas (the case of 'Qhapaq Ñan in youth hands: School network' in Argentina); the inclusion of cultural dimensions in the management of heritage (in the cases of Bolivia, Ecuador and Guyana); the creation of the National Intersectoral World Heritage Commission (Colombia); the participatory management of the sites (Brazil); monitoring and biodiversity programmes; the National Centre for World Heritage Sites (in Chile); the creation of the National Intersectoral World Heritage Commission (Colombia); and the successful World Heritage management plans (Uruguay, Suriname, Peru and Paraguay).

The topics addressed in the examples of good practice identify a trend to highlight management experiences, together with sustainable development and conservation practices. Capacity-building is also represented in the South American shared good practices.

### **2.15 Assessment of the Periodic Reporting exercise**

The last part of the questionnaire provides the participant with the opportunity to also evaluate the whole Third cycle Periodic Reporting exercise and the technical aspect of the questionnaire.

In general, State Parties considered that the Periodic Reporting exercise and its questionnaire was useful and provided adequate information on the implementation of the Convention.

The four Objectives of Periodic Reporting were considered as adequately addressed in the main part by the 33 States Parties:

- 29 considered that the questionnaire provides an assessment of the implementation of the Convention by each State Party.
- 23 considered that Periodic Reporting provides updated information to record the changing circumstances and state of conservation of the property.
- 21 Focal Points considered that it provides an assessment as to whether the values of properties are being maintained over time.
- 19 considered that it provides a mechanism for regional exchange and information.

In the qualitative responses, some responses pointed out that a single questionnaire cannot fully address a diverse variety of sites with different issues, but that it is a good solution for baseline data. Covid-19 and the difficulties in meeting due to the pandemic situation were also mentioned by participants.

In the recommendations, participants mention, among other things, the need to promote advisory meetings during the process of filling out the forms and to promote the exchange of

information and databases among the State Parties. More consideration to the socio-cultural realities of the region should be given, together with creating a clearer link with the responses from the previous cycle, to be considered during the completion of the exercise. Participants requested to the opportunity to add qualitative information to some questions and to allow States Parties to differentiate natural and cultural heritage in more questions. Finally, the possibility of using Spanish and other languages for the completion of the exercise was raised.

Looking ahead, it is interesting to identify the use each State Party is planning to give to the data: improvement of the implementation of the Convention is key for all the countries (except one in South America) and the revision of priorities, strategies and policies in the domain of heritage may also be the case for 31 countries (including all South America, with only one exception in Caribbean and Central America and Mexico).

On the other side, the Periodic Reporting exercise is clearly not perceived as a fundraising instrument (Table 2.10).

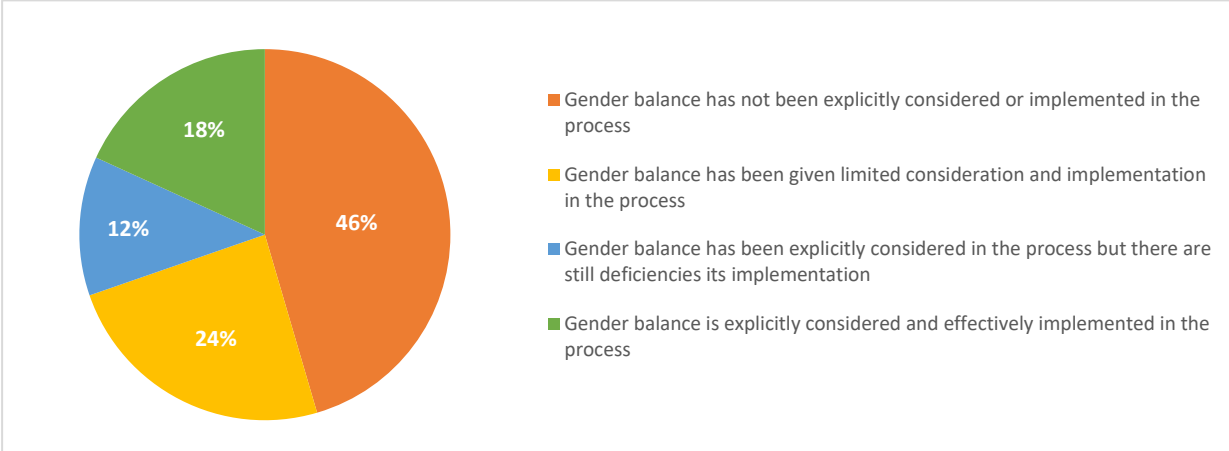
**Table 2.10. Number of States Parties reporting on the uses of the Periodic Reporting data at national level**

Region/Subregion	Caribbean	Central America and Mexico	South America	Total
Improve the State Party implementation on the Convention	16	7	9	32
Revision of priorities/strategies/policies for the protection, management and conservation of heritage	15	6	10	31
Awareness raising	15	5	8	28
Reporting on implementation of Sustainable Development Goals	12	4	7	23
Updating management plans	10	5	7	22
Reporting for other conventions/conservation mechanisms	10	2	5	17
Advocacy	10	2	3	15
Fundraising	4	1	3	8
Other(s)	1	0	0	1

States Parties considered that in 58% of the cases they had been given adequate time by national authorities to gather necessary information and to fill in the questionnaire. Special mention should be made of Central America and Mexico, where all the countries considered they had adequate time, while it was the case only for 50% of South America and 43.75% of the Caribbean.

Looking to the estimation of working hours and the number of people involved in the completion of Section I, gathering data is the task which requires the most hours, but quite different responses were received by regions: while South America clearly dedicated time to this part, Caribbean countries needed more working hours dedicated to filling in the questionnaire. The average number of people participating in the process demonstrates that State Parties include more people when consulting stakeholders.

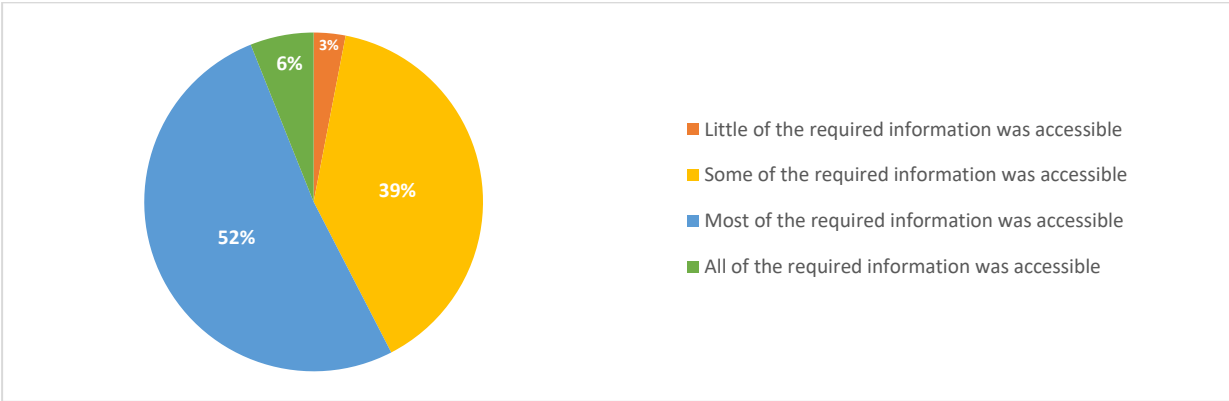
For the completion of the questionnaire, a gender-balanced contribution has not been explicitly considered or implemented in 46% of the cases (15 States Parties); 8 States Parties gave limited consideration to this gender approach and 6 States Parties said they did consider and effectively implement it in the process (Figure 2.31).



**Figure 2.31.** Percentage of States Parties that has a gender balanced contribution and participation been considered and implemented in the filling out of Third Cycle Periodic Reporting questionnaire

Additional resources were mobilized by national authorities in very few countries – 30% of the region got extra support on human resources, with very different results by subregion, such as 50% in South America. Financial resources for organizing consultation meetings were only provided in two countries from that subregion.

The accessibility of the information required to complete the whole questionnaire of the Periodic Report tends to be a concern for participants. This time Latin America and Caribbean national Focal Points identified that most of the required information was accessible for them (17 countries), while another 13 participants considered that some information was accessible (Figure 2.32). Obtained results show that the questionnaire is easy to use and clear to understand for 31 of the 33 national Focal Points.



**Figure 2.32.** States Parties reported on the accessibility of information required to complete the Periodic Report

The level of support regarding training and guidance during the exercise was considered ‘fair’ and ‘good’ when national Focal Points identified the World Heritage Centre, with 28 out of 33 questionnaires selecting this option. The support from the online training resources provided by the World Heritage Centre was considered as adequate by 82% of the participants, including all the countries in Central America and Mexico.

At some distance from those numbers, the next level of support to the participants came from the UNESCO National Commissions at country level. The Caribbean subregion takes the lead in this area, with 69% of support identified; on the contrary, Central America and Mexico only considered this support in one country out of seven. The participation of Category 2 Centres and Advisory Bodies could clearly be improved and extended.

## **2.16 Conclusions on Section I**

The Third Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise integrated responses from all the States Parties, identifying a clear regional commitment. The exercise shows a good capacity for the identification and protection of heritage, with the need to enhance and improve the implementation level. The exercise is perceived by Focal Points as a useful tool for future decision-making at national level, providing a baseline for the monitoring of heritage. It offers opportunities to identify room for improvement related to more effective cooperation among conventions, authorities and stakeholders.

The outcomes of the exercise will enable States Parties to design new action plans and new projects. States Parties are further committed to monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the Periodic Report in a timely manner. For future Periodic Reporting, it could be helpful to integrate an automatic timer to count the number of hours spent completing the questionnaire.

It is important to highlight that all the 16 Caribbean States Parties are SIDS. SIDS are a distinct group of 38 United Nations Member States that face unique social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities. In addition, one of these SIDS in the Caribbean subregion, Haiti, also overlaps as one of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). This means that 48% of the States Parties of the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region are SIDS and share specificities that will arise through the questionnaire, and that will require specific attention to their particular reality.

### 3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION AT WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Section II of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire focuses on the implementation of the Convention at site level, and the completion of this questionnaire is a process led by site managers at property level, guaranteeing that the information comes from the people in charge of daily management of the sites. National Focal Points at national level validated the responses in a second level of involvement. A summary of the analyses of quantitative data from Section II is presented through a hyperlink in Annex II.

#### 3.1 World Heritage property data

Since the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, and by the time of commencing the Third Cycle in the Latin America and the Caribbean region in September 2021, the total number of World Heritage properties increased from 127 to 147: 101 cultural properties, 38 natural properties and 8 mixed properties.

Table 3.1 shows the total number of World Heritage properties which responded to the Third Cycle Periodic Reporting exercise by site type.

**Table 3.1. Latin America and the Caribbean World Heritage properties that responded to the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting**

Subregion/Property category	Culture	Mixed	Natural	Total
Latin America and the Caribbean	100	8	37	145
Caribbean	13	1	6	20
Central America and Mexico	36	3	12	51
South America	51	4	19	74

One World Heritage property did not complete the Third Cycle questionnaire, and as one other property – The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement (Argentina, Belgium, France, Germany, India, Japan and Switzerland) – was the first transregional inscribed property, it was decided that the completion exercise for the questionnaire will be coordinated by France (as the last region to undergo the exercise in 2022) when, for the purpose of the exercise, one questionnaire is filled out per property.

Since the Second Periodic Reporting exercise, the Latin America and the Caribbean region inscribed 20 new World Heritage sites, 2 of which are transboundary; 13 properties were inscribed as cultural heritage, 3 as natural and 4 were mixed sites. From a general perspective, since the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, Latin America and the Caribbean accounts for only 9% of the 222 new properties inscribed globally. Five States Parties in the Caribbean subregion have no property inscribed.

At the time of writing, six properties are on the List of World Heritage in Danger, and three World Heritage properties have been removed from the List: Los Katios National Park (Colombia) in 2015, Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (Belize) in 2018 and Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Chile) in 2019.

It is important to highlight that since the Second Cycle, the number of mixed properties in the region has doubled to eight. One of the newly inscribed mixed sites is the Blue and John Crow Mountains (Jamaica), inscribed in 2015, being the only mixed property to date in the Caribbean.

Based on the updated information provided by the site managers through their questionnaire, more and more properties are being equipped with official website pages for promotional purposes. Several sites also report using various social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc.) as a cost- and user-friendly way to promote World Heritage properties in the region.

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

This part of the report aims to identify links between the World Heritage Convention and other Conventions and programmes, in order to recognize the multiplicity of values of each site and highlight synergies with other UNESCO initiatives.

The region records very few World Heritage properties that are also designated (in whole or in part) as protected under other Conventions/programmes. There is, however, a clear predominance of natural World Heritage properties that have been reported to be designated on the Ramsar List and the Network of Biosphere Reserves, which are mainly properties in the Central America and Mexico subregion, and South America (Table 3.2).

**Table 3.2. World Heritage properties (in whole or in part) designated and/or protected under other Conventions/programmes**

Region/Subregion	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
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>2</b>
Caribbean	0	0	2	2	0
Central America and Mexico	9	0	12	14	1
South America	0	0	8	19	1

All nine of the World Heritage properties listed in the International Register of Cultural property under Special Protection in the Latin America and the Caribbean are located in Mexico.

While none of the properties are on the List of Cultural property under Enhanced Protection, the majority of the World Heritage properties responded, at 56%, that their national authorities do not intend to request the granting of Enhanced Protection (if relevant) under the Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict for the World Heritage property in the next three years, while 41% considered that this is not applicable to their World Heritage property. Only five properties (Central University City

Campus of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) (Mexico) Historic Fortified Town of Campeche (Mexico), Jesuit Missions of La Santísima Trinidad de Paraná and Jesús de Tavarangue (Panama), Historic Quarter of the City of Colonia del Sacramento (Uruguay), and The work of engineer Eladio Dieste: Church of Atlántida (Uruguay)) reported the intention of their national authorities to do so in the next three years.

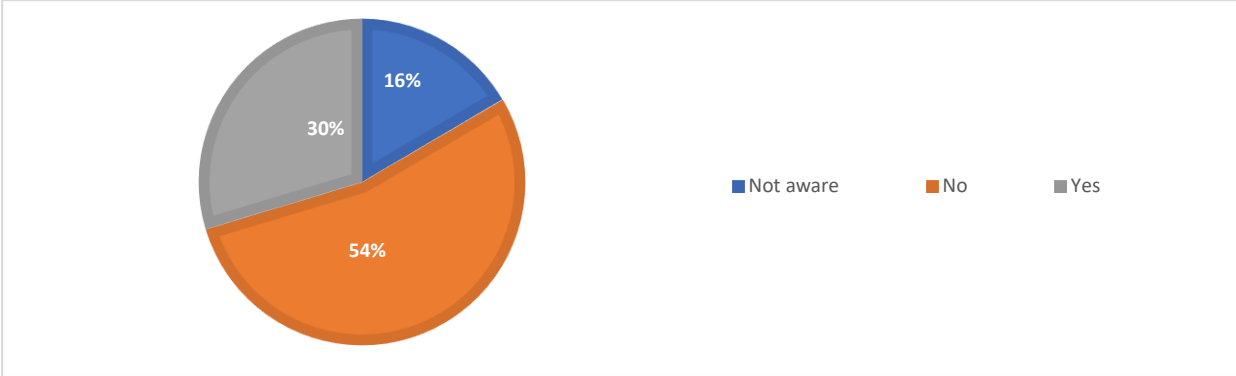
Collaboration between the different designations of national Focal Point is much more frequent in South America and Central America and Mexico than in the Caribbean, which has only one property with both designations (the Alejandro de Humboldt National Park embedded in the much larger Cuchillas del Toa Biosphere Reserve in Cuba). However, site managers mentioned that for seven of the properties there is an intention to designate these World Heritage properties as Man and Biosphere Reserves. These are in Costa Rica, Panama and Peru.

There are 35 World Heritage properties fully or partially designated as Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention. In addition, six World Heritage properties report their intention to be designated under the Ramsar List during the next years: one in Mexico, and five in South America, notably Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. The Qhapaq Ñan (Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru) transboundary site also has the intention to request this designation.

There are two World Heritage cultural properties also inscribed also Geoparks: the Historic Centre of Morelia (Mexico) and the transnational property of Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System This small number of sites could be increased in the coming years, since 14 States Parties reported that they are considering presenting a site to the Global Geopark Network.

Regarding the synergies with UNESCO Culture Conventions, the cooperation with the 1954 Convention and its Second Protocol remains poor, except for the case of Mexico, where all eight properties with the double designation for Enhanced Protection under the Second Protocol are located for the region. In the next few years, three more properties from Mexico and three from Paraguay intend to request the granting of Enhanced Protection.

Regarding the 2003 Convention on the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, 30% of the World Heritage site managers in the region are aware of elements associated with their World Heritage property that have also been inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. More than half of participants reported that no element in the World Heritage property is related to the 2003 Convention registration instruments (Figure 3.1).



**Figure 3.1.** Percentage of World Heritage site manager who are aware of any elements associated with the World Heritage property that have been inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage



Only 15% of properties (22) reported documentary heritage under the Memory of the World Programme (10 in South America, 9 in Central America and Mexico and 3 in the Caribbean).

### 3.3 Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Respondents were requested to list the key attributes of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and to give an assessment of their condition. It was suggested to focus on approximately 5 key attributes, and no more than 15. Accordingly, the key attributes of OUV of 145 World Heritage properties were assessed: 105 properties validated the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the property as adopted by the World Heritage Committee, while 40 mentioned the need to update it (either because of factual errors, or reported their intention to send to the World Heritage Centre with some minor modifications).

The Outstanding Universal Values of World Heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean are based on 812 attributes: 67% of these are from cultural, 26% from natural and 7% from mixed properties. With regard to the total amount of attributes in the region, around 75% of them are reported as 'preserved', and no significant differences among the three subregions were found.

It could be observed that the mixed properties are the most effective at protecting attributes (91%), compared to the cultural properties (78%) and natural properties (65%). Only 9% of the attributes from mixed sites are compromised. No seriously compromised attributes were reported in any mixed properties, but 3% and 9% in cultural and natural attributes, respectively (Figure 3.2).

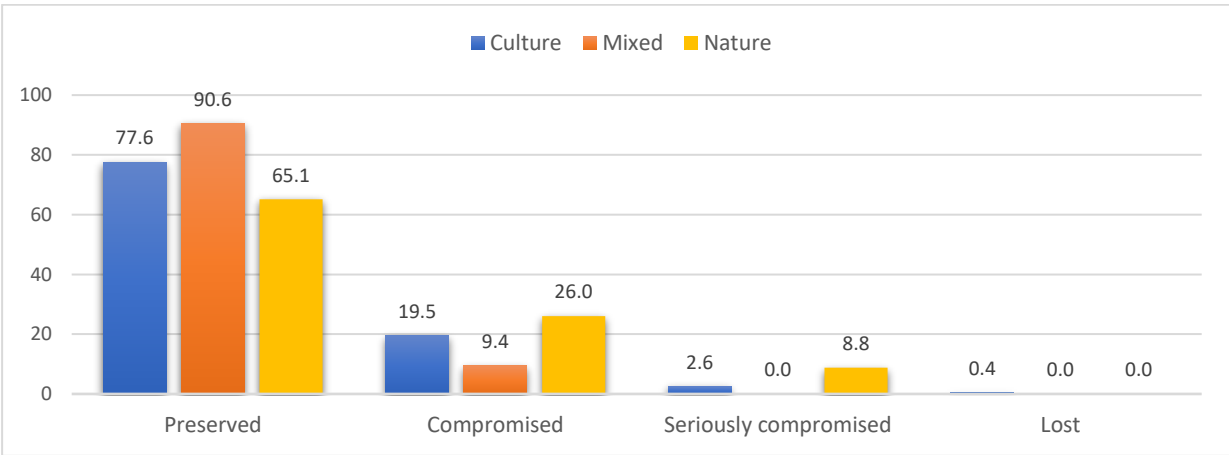


Figure 3.2. State of the conditions of key attributes of OUV in the World Heritage properties

### 3.4 Factors affecting the property

A set of questions (4.1–4.14) of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire focused on information about a range of factors affecting each property, among 13 factor groups. Each factor group consists of three to ten factors. In total, 76 individual factors could be chosen from the options in the questionnaire and assessed according to whether they affect the property positively or negatively, whether their impact is current or potential, whether originating inside or outside the property, and whether the trend is increasing, decreasing or static.

There was no ceiling for the number of factors to be identified per property. In identifying the factors that are affecting, or have strong potential to affect, World Heritage properties, the relevance of the 13 factor groups and the specific factors is reflected in the total number of

mentions by respondents who found them relevant in relation to their respective properties (whether positive or negative).

*General analysis*

The participants have 13 different categories of factors to choose from and, as a general observation, there is a greater tendency by site managers to mark factors that have a negative impact (2,077 times) than those having a positive impact (1,467 times).

'Management and institutional factors' is the main factor reported by all three subregions combined, followed by the social and cultural uses of heritage for all the subregions. Then, Central America and Mexico and South America identify the local conditions affecting the physical fabric as the following priority, while the Caribbean includes climate change and severe weather events in third place. This reminds us that all the States Parties in the Caribbean are SIDS, where climate change has been having a very tangible impact.

Both States Parties of South America, and Central America and Mexico incorporated buildings and development among their top five priorities, albeit in a different order, while this factor is not part of the priorities for the Caribbean subregion. On their side, the Caribbean and South America also integrated biological resource use/modification in their list of five more mentioned factors (Table 3.3).

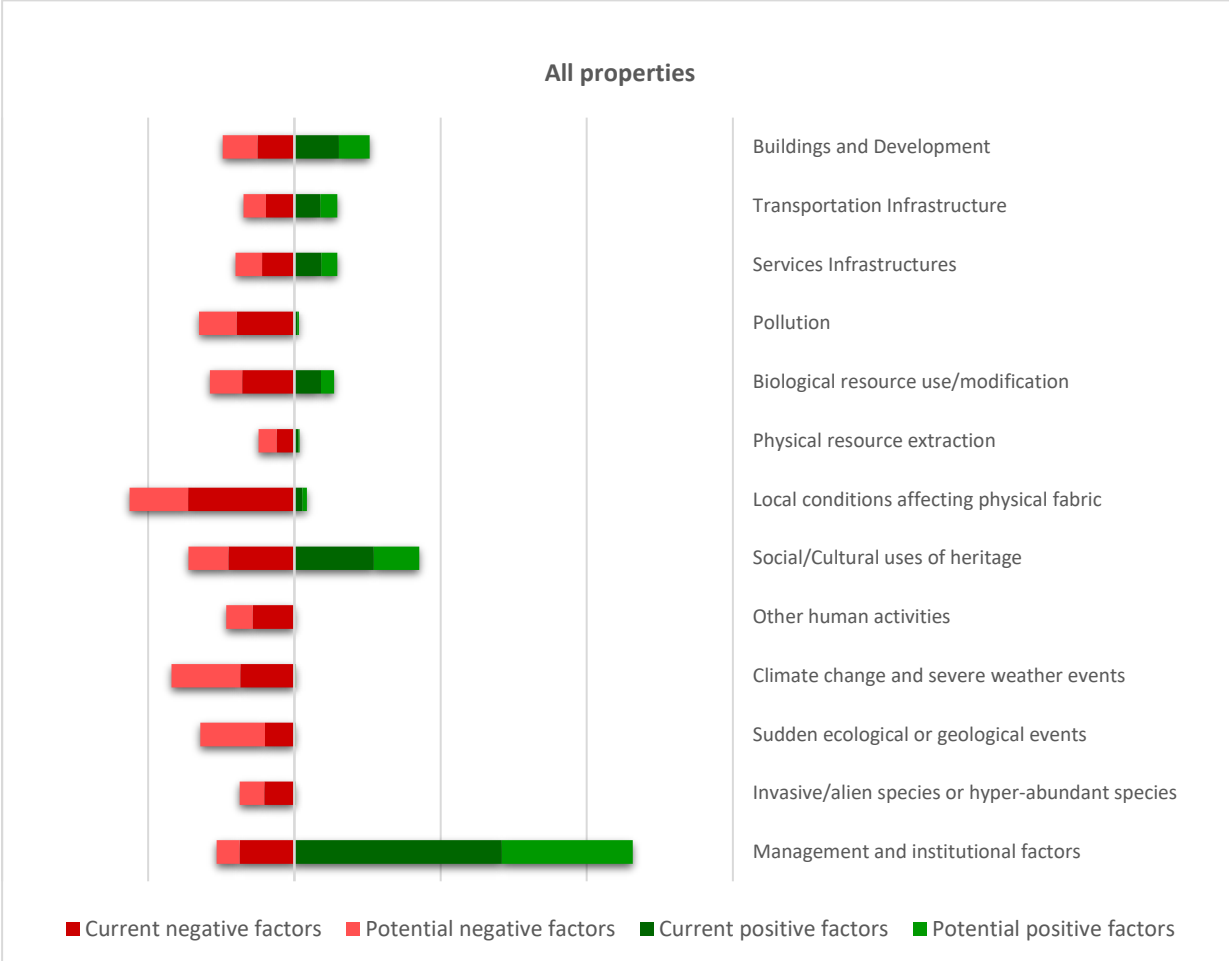
**Table 3.3. Top five factors reported by States Parties of Latin America and the Caribbean**

<b>Caribbean</b>	<b>Central America and Mexico</b>	<b>South America</b>
Management and institutional factors (111)	Management and institutional factors (338)	Management and institutional factors (511)
Social/Cultural uses of heritage (53)	Social/Cultural uses of heritage (168)	Social/Cultural uses of heritage (261)
Climate change and severe weather events (50)	Local conditions affecting physical fabric (167)	Local conditions affecting physical fabric (230)
Local conditions affecting physical fabric (45)	Climate change and severe weather events (132)	Buildings and Development (203)
Biological resource use/modification (36)	Buildings and Development (121)	Biological resource use/modification (144)

However, to fully understand these results, a closer look at the forementioned factors would show that some of them are clearly established by site managers as positive, which contributes to the conservation of the site: specifically, the management and institutional factors are mostly mentioned for their current positive impact, with a much lower number of questionnaires that define them in relation to negative aspects.

On another side, some factors generate both positive and negative impacts. Focusing on social and cultural uses of heritage, 272 questionnaires indicate that this has a positive impact for the site at present, while 226 indicate exactly the opposite. In the case of buildings and development, the number of negative impacts at present (126) and the number of positive ones (152) is not so different. A similar result can be seen for the infrastructures, both on transportation and services.

In turn, some factors show an impact, both current and potential, undoubtedly negative, following the site managers' views. This is the case of local conditions affecting physical fabric and climate change and severe weather events, along with sudden ecological or geological events, pollution, invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species, and physical resource extraction (Figure 3.3).



**Figure 3.3.** Overview of the factors affecting negatively and/or positively, either positively and/or negatively the World Heritage properties on the Latin America and the Caribbean

*Factors affecting sites by category*

Looking at the difference in the responses regarding categories of properties, it is clear that all types of sites prioritize management and institutional factors in their responses as the most mentioned category. The cultural properties keep in second place the impact of the social and cultural uses of heritage and in third place the local conditions affecting the physical fabric. Against this, the natural and mixed properties mention in second place the impact of biological resource use/modification among the proposed factors, and integrate the social/cultural uses of heritage as their third category.

Both natural and cultural properties mention climate change and buildings and development among the five most impacting factors, albeit in a different order.

While the local conditions affecting the physical fabric do have a negative impact for cultural and mixed properties, this does not generally affect the natural properties so clearly. Likewise, natural heritage tends to report higher negative impact on factors such as climate change and

severe weather events, biological resource use/modification, invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species and sudden ecological or geological events (Table 3.4).

**Table 3.4. Overview of the secondary level factors affecting negatively and positively the World Heritage properties of Latin America and the Caribbean**

Cultural	Mixed	Natural
Management and institutional factors (659)	Management and institutional factors (54)	Management and institutional factors (247)
Social/Cultural uses of heritage (358)	Biological resource use/modification (32)	Biological resource use/modification (125)
Local conditions affecting physical fabric (354)	Social/Cultural uses of heritage (31)	Social/Cultural uses of heritage (93)
Buildings and development (260)	Local conditions affecting physical fabric (26)	Climate change and severe weather events (83)
Climate change and severe weather events (196)	Sudden ecological or geological events (19)	Buildings and development (77)

It is to be noted that the region comprises 11 properties which are the cultural landscapes. Due to its closer relationship to the natural environment, these cultural properties identify among the five most impacting priorities biological resource use/modification, a characteristic that they share with natural and mixed properties.

Looking at the number of properties affected by each main category of factor (Figure 3.4), it is interesting to see that:

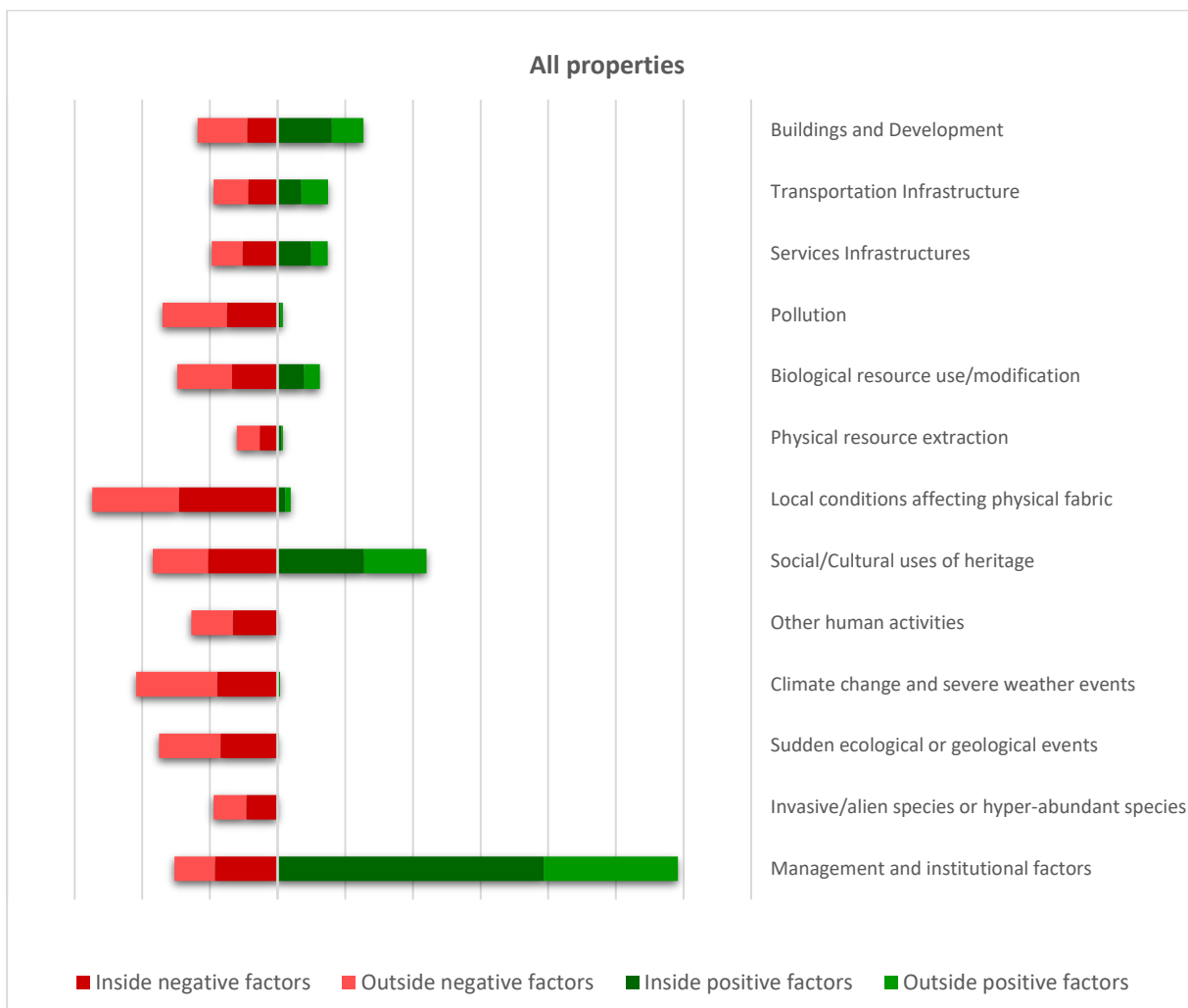
- Management and institutional factors were considered relevant at some point by all the site managers, except for just one natural site (144 out of 145 questionnaires mentioned this factor). Therefore, the positive and negative aspects of the institutional and management decisions must be considered in any future proposal in the region.
- Social/Cultural uses of heritage were relevant for 95 cultural properties (95% of the properties), 7 mixed properties (87.5%) and 35 natural properties (94.6%).
- Local conditions affecting the physical fabric are clearly impacting more on cultural (85%, 85 properties) and mixed heritage (87.5%, 7 properties) than on natural heritage (51.35%, 19 properties).
- Buildings and development affect cultural heritage in 91% of cases (91 properties) and natural heritage in 83.78% of cases (31 properties). Sites inscribed as mixed properties considered this factor as relevant in six cases, 75% of the total.
- Biological resource use/modification is considered a relevant factor for all properties in the mixed category (8 properties) and in 83.78% of the sites inscribed as natural properties (31 out of 37). Cultural properties, on the other hand, only mention this type of factor in 49% of cases (49 sites). On the other hand, it should be noted that among sites inscribed as cultural landscapes, the impact of biological resource use and modification is mentioned by 80% of the properties (eight out of ten cultural landscapes mention this factor).
- Climate change and severe weather events affect 83.78% of the natural sites (31 out of 37 sites in the region marked this factor). Mixed properties mention climate change with a percentage of 75% (6 out of 8 properties) and 74% of the cultural sites (74 out of 100

properties) also indicate the impact of climate change. Special mention should be made of cultural landscapes, as 90% of the properties under that category mark climate change as a relevant factor (nine out of ten properties).

*Origin and trend of the factors*

Figure 3.4 shows how the source of the factors is considered as coming both from inside the boundaries of the property and from outside the site, with the inside origin more frequently reported.

The numbers show that people responsible for the sites identify that factors negatively affecting the site usually come from both outside (1,937 mentions) and inside (1,875). On the contrary, the positive factors are clearly more common inside the boundaries (1,505 mentions) than outside (882). One of the explanations for these numbers regarding the positive impact can be found in relation to the factors on management and institutional area, since site managers mentioned 787 times that management in the property (inside) was positive, while only 393 of mentions identified the origin of this positive aspect as outside the property.



**Figure 3.4.** Overview of the origin of factors affecting negatively and/or positively the World Heritage properties on the Latin America and the Caribbean region

Site managers were requested to rate the impact of each mentioned factor on a temporal scale, with the aim of identifying the main trends in the region. In general, most of the factors affecting

the property, whether negatively or positively, have been reported as being 'stable', and this is observed in all the three subregions.

Focusing on the positive aspects identified, management and institutional factors are more often considered as 'stable' (421), while social and cultural uses of heritage get a similar result for 'stable' (137) or 'increasing' (139). The negative impact of social and cultural uses of heritage is also mainly reported as 'increasing' (127).

Looking among the impacts identified as negative, climate change and severe weather events is clearly perceived as an 'increasing' trend, since site managers reported this factor as 'increasing' 164 times, while 108 of them reported it as 'stable'. Biological resource use/modification and local conditions affecting the physical fabric are generally identified as 'stable'.

Buildings and development offer quite similar numbers, both for positive and negative impacts, when considering them as 'stable' or 'increasing' (Figure 3.5).



**Figure 3.5.** Overview of the trend of factors affecting negatively and/or positively the World Heritage properties in Latin America and the Caribbean

For each primary factor, respondents were requested to assess the secondary factors in each primary factor group. A more in-depth look at each factor group, with its specific factors, is provided with regards to impact, origin and trends.

### **3.4.1 Management and institutional factors**

Management and institutional factors is clearly the most significant factor in the region, with the capacity to enhance the conservation of the sites at present, and potentially for the future. It has a reported impact in all the 144 properties participating in the exercise, with the exception of only one natural site.

While the origin of the positive impact clearly comes from inside the boundaries of the property, the negative impact has its origin both inside and outside the property.

Management activities could be considered as the factor receiving the highest consideration, due to the approach of 113 World Heritage site managers that consider it as currently impacting their site in a positive manner, and 77 site managers that also identify its potential to be positive for the property. These protection and management activities are currently positive for 78.43% of Central America and Mexico, for 78.37% of the inscribed properties in South America, and for 75% of the Caribbean properties.

The legal framework gets the same number of positive responses: 113 sites value positively the impact of their legal framework, while 53 consider it could have a positive potential for the property. In this case, the legal framework has a higher positive impact in South America, where 61 out of 74 sites (82.43% of the inscribed heritage) considers this secondary factor as current and positive. Central America and Mexico reaches 78.43% and it seems that the legal framework is not so significant for Caribbean properties, judging by the 60% percentage received from those sites.

Governance is also considered as a positive aspect for the World Heritage sites: 100 properties are positively impacted at present, and this could potentially be the case for 63 sites as a secondary factor. Governance gets higher scores in South America, where the 72.97% of the sites consider it as positive today. Central America and Mexico reaches 68.62% and the Caribbean 55%. It is also interesting to note that 19 sites considered governance as having a current negative impact in their case.

Continuing with the positive aspects, the management system/management plan is also seen as positive at this current stage by 97 site managers, obtaining similar percentages among the subregions. But in the case of this particular secondary factor, it is even more significant that it is also mentioned quite frequently in the negative part of the table: 33 site managers consider that the management system/management plan is currently negatively affecting the property. This means that 24.32% of the South American listed heritage, 23.53% of the Central American and Mexican heritage and 15% of the Caribbean heritage is negatively affected at this stage.

Focusing on negative aspects of the factor, financial resources and human resources are the most mentioned ones. Financial resources are currently a concern for 52 sites, with differences among subregions: Central America and Mexico receives the higher score, with 43.14% of the properties identifying a current negative impact; South America stands at 33.79% and the Caribbean at 25%.

Human resources are a current problem for 44 site managers, with a similar division among subregions.

Many participants provided qualitative information on this subject, with their comments on management and institutional factors. Negative comments are focused on outdated management plans, ones that have not been formally adopted, or management plans that are only for one of the components of the site. Several sites are updating their systems and plans. The lack of adequate financing and resources is common and the need for more budget and professionals is mentioned around the subregions. The impact of COVID on reducing resources and delaying ongoing programmes is also evident. Some highlight the need for strengthened governance.

On the other hand, site managers report on the positive consequences of constant monitoring at the site. Consolidated management systems and legal frameworks improve the situation from the site managers' point of view. Long-term strategies are also considered as positive, and some considered that creating partnerships with different stakeholders helped them to achieve certain goals.

### **3.4.2 Social/Cultural uses of heritage**

Social and cultural uses of heritage are ranked at the second level of priority in all subregions of Latin America and the Caribbean, so this must be considered as a significant factor, affecting both in a positive and negative way. Social/cultural uses of heritage were relevant for 95 cultural properties (95% of the properties), 7 mixed properties (87.5%) and 35 natural properties (94.6%).

It is interesting to identify the origin of these impacts: the positive impact of this factor is generally located inside the boundaries of the inscribed property, with 256 responses.

This factor includes various secondary factors that require the attention of site managers, both for their positive and negative impacts. Firstly, participants have pointed out the impacts of tourism/visitation/recreation. On the positive side, 77 properties today report that the uses linked to tourism and visitors already have a favourable impact on the property, while 49 mention that it could potentially be positive. Against this, 56 site managers consider impacts of tourism/visitation/recreation to have negative consequences, and 40 see potential negative consequences.

Staying with impacts of tourism/visitation/recreation, by subregion, we see that the Caribbean is the most favourably disposed to the effects of this social and cultural use, with 60% of the inscribed properties stating that it currently has a positive effect. It is followed by South America, with 54.05% and Central America and Mexico with 49.02%. Looking at the negative impact, tourism and the consequences of visitors are having more impact in Central America and Mexico, where 49.02% of the collected questionnaires already indicate a negative impact on the current conservation of the property. South America reports a negative impact of 35.13% and the Caribbean 25%.

Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community is also having a negative impacts on properties, with 56 site managers reporting issues today, and 39 identifying potential issues. This means that 45.1% of properties from Central America and Mexico, 36.49% from South America and 30% from the Caribbean identify negative effects due to these changes in the community. However, this secondary factor is also valued positively: 38 properties consider it a favourable input for conservation. The highest positive percentage is obtained by South America, where 31.08% of the responses rated it positively at present (Central America and Mexico reaches 21.57% and the Caribbean 20%).



The second most indicated positive secondary factor is ritual/spiritual/religious and associative uses, where 69 site managers indicate that these uses associated with heritage contribute in a positive manner to its conservation, with quite similar percentages in the three subregions (South America 48.65%, Central America 47.06% and the Caribbean 45%).

Society's valuing of heritage is mentioned as the third positive secondary factor, which already favourably impacts 66 properties and could potentially do so in 40. The responses show that this social valuation of heritage is highly rated by site managers in South America, with 56.76% of properties identifying it, and 45 properties in the Caribbean (50%). Central America and Mexico only score a 29.41% positive response in this case.

The impact of indigenous hunting, gathering and collecting is indicated by ten site managers as a negative secondary factor that affects the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, while eight properties mention it as positive. This negative impact seems to be more significant in Central America and Mexico, with 11.76% of properties reporting the issue (Caribbean 5% and South America 4.05%). On the other hand, South America considers indigenous hunting, gathering and collecting as more positive, with 8.11% of the questionnaires indicating this (Caribbean 5% and Central America and Mexico 1.96%).

Among the numerous comments that accompany the questionnaires on this subject, tourism is mentioned on several occasions. For some, it is an economic source for the communities that reside in the property; agreements are being established to expand the arrival of tourists; and tourism can be even the main source of income. Conversely, comments also mention the negative impacts of uncontrolled tourism in the conservation of sites in the region.

In the negative aspects, depopulation, gentrification or the use for commercial purposes of residential buildings are pointed out, among others.

Site managers are positive in places where the communities have seen a strengthening of their traditional ways associated with the conservation of cultural and natural heritage in a sustainable manner, and the confluence of Indigenous peoples and local community can also promote cultural exchange and new models of adaptation to current challenges.

Analysing the opinions of site managers, it is understood that there is a need to continue promoting a more comprehensive relationship between local community and heritage, in order to serve as a means to a better and sustainable use as well as protection of the inscribed properties.

### **3.4.3 *Biological resource use/modification***

Biological resource use/modification is a significant factor, which particularly affects properties inscribed as natural and mixed. In fact, it is considered a relevant factor in all properties in the mixed category (8 properties) and in 83.78% of the properties inscribed as natural (31 out of 37); 80% of the cultural landscapes in the region also mentioned this factor. SIDS States Parties in the Caribbean and the States Parties in South America include this in the list of the five factors that most affect their properties.

Biological resource use/modification is listed by 178 properties as a negative effect, while 91 indicate that this factor has a positive impact today. The origin of the factor is located both inside the property (134 properties) and outside (163 properties).

Starting with the negative impacts, land conversion is the most mentioned secondary factor, with 38 questionnaires that identify its present negative impact, and 27 its potential. It is followed by

crop production, with 31 current impacts and 20 potential ones, and livestock farming/grazing of domesticated animals, with 29 impacts at present throughout the region.

Land conversion currently affects 15 properties in Central America and Mexico (29.41%) and 20 properties in South America (27.03%). Only three Caribbean properties (15%) currently identify this as a negative secondary factor. It must be highlighted that the origin of the negative impact of land conversion is located outside the property, according to information provided by 42 site managers, while only 18 questionnaires identified it as having an inside origin.

Looking at the negative part of the table, it should be noted that crop production, which was identified by 31 properties as something currently negative, is also identified as positive by 19 managers, and potentially receives 13 more positive mentions. By subregion, it should be noted that the positive impact of crop production is much more prominent in the Caribbean, where 6 out of 20 properties (30% of the region) currently mention the consequences of crop production as positive (in South America this percentage only reaches 13.51% and 5.88% in Central America and Mexico). In addition, subsistence wild plant collection is having a current positive impact in 19 properties of the region.

Numerous comments have been received on this factor, from a wide variety of situations. There is a clear impact of commercial hunting and fishing in different properties and deforestation alters the natural landscape of some sites. Several places where there is an expansion of agricultural lands are identified. Land conversions usually occur outside the boundaries of the property, but have an impact on its conservation. The replacing of agricultural lands by urban development is also mentioned, together with the illegal land takeovers due to an increase of population. Successful experiences are also shared, where Indigenous peoples collaborate in conservation through an agreement for strengthened agriculture-crop, hunting and subsistence wild plant collection using traditional methods.

#### **3.4.4 Local conditions affecting the physical fabric**

Local conditions affecting the physical fabric are in third place in the list of priority factors in all the subregions. This factor is clearly impacting more on cultural (85%, 85 properties) and mixed properties (87.5%, 7 properties) than on natural ones (51.35%, 19 properties). This factor generates far more negative comments – 364 current mentions, compared to only 27 positive. The origin of the negative impact is in this case located more inside the boundaries, with 292 of the responses, than outside (256 responses).

Affections derived from water (rain/water table) are the most mentioned issues, and they currently negatively affect 60 properties in total, and 45 potentially. This means 45.1% of the Central America and Mexican subregion properties and 41.89% of the South American inscribed properties. A much lower 30% of the Caribbean properties are affected today by *water* in a negative way.

Next, pests affect 50 properties at this current stage, and could potentially harm 28 properties, including impacts coming from animals, plants or fungus detrimental to environment. Wind, including the vibration and erosion caused by wind, is having a negative impact in 49 properties, and may potentially impact 24. Temperature is currently having a negative impact in 48 properties, while 28 may face temperature consequences in the future. Relative humidity is also currently affecting 48 properties in the region, and may impact 23.

The comments from site managers leave no doubt that many of them link the results provided in this question to climate change (which will also be analysed later in the questionnaire). The

increase of hurricanes, acid rain and droughts are mentioned by some participants, for example. Along with the general comment that climate change worsens the adverse effects of this factor, some mention the impacts of pests and termites on wooden buildings and native flora. The effect of pests and fungi on crops also impacts on cultural landscapes. Comments mention the erosion of buildings due to microorganisms and atmospheric contamination and the erosion on coastal beaches. The humid climate is also impacting built elements. In addition, rock paintings face specific challenges with regard to this factor.

In some of the comments provided, it is obvious that people responsible for the conservation of these sites promote the idea of monitoring as a basic tool to be able to face these adverse consequences.

### **3.4.5 *Climate change and severe weather events***

Climate change and severe weather events is the third main factor for Caribbean SIDS countries. It also appears in the top five priorities for Central America and Mexico. Regarding categories, climate change is also mentioned among the priorities for cultural and natural heritage.

This factor clearly shows a negative impact at the sites, and it is more mentioned as potentially harmful (236 properties) than currently harmful (185 properties). The site managers located climate change and severe weather events with a negative impact coming from outside the site 239 times, while the inside negative origin was selected by 179.

The responses among the secondary factors are diverse and provide a wide variety of answers. Storms are located in the negative part of the table, with 53 current and 57 potential impacts. This secondary factor has a clear subregional division: storms negatively affect the properties in the Caribbean region in a significant fashion, with 14 out of 20 already impacted (70%). Central America and Mexico reported the negative effects of storms at 41.18%, while South America only considered this secondary factor to negatively affect 24.32% of their properties.

Temperature change may impact 47 properties, while it already has a negative impact for 34 properties through the region. Drought is also a concern nowadays for 27 site managers, and could potentially be a problem for 39 properties.

Flooding is also a reality: it could potentially impact 44 properties in a negative manner, and it has already affected 27 properties. Flooding is reported as a current negative secondary factor by 35% of the Caribbean properties (South America 16.22%, Central America and Mexico 15.69%).

Other climate change impacts were considered by 20 participants as a current problem, and by 24 as a potential one. Desertification is already having negative consequences for ten properties.

Caribbean site managers commented on the increasing presence of cyclones, hurricanes and tropical storms. Coastal flooding and sea-level rise, together with other floods, are also a concern. Central America comments reported also on hurricanes and storms. Changes in rainfall patterns, increasing temperatures that affect the cultivation areas, drought, biodiversity loss and extreme events that affect vegetation are perceived. South America reports on storms, floods, drought and both rainfall and decrease of precipitations. An acceleration of glaciological processes due to the increased temperature is mentioned.

### **3.4.6 Sudden ecological or geological events**

Sudden ecological or geological events is a factor that impacts the Caribbean subregion (34 properties) and the mixed heritage, reaching the top five priority factors. As with some others, this factor is defined by its negative consequences, with 101 properties negatively affected at present, and 221 that may face potential issues.

If we consider both the current negative effects (32 properties) and the potential ones (58 properties), it is clear that fires (wildfires) are already an issue of concern for the region. This factor appears as a potential risk for 44.59% of the properties in South America and 45% of the Caribbean properties (Central America and Mexico scores 31.37% for this negative potential effect).

Earthquakes are a concern for 16 properties at present, but their impact may be much bigger, since 60 participants identified this secondary factor as a potential problem. These numbers mean that earthquakes could affect 47.06% of the properties in Central America and Mexico, and another 45% of the Caribbean properties identify a potential risk (9 out of 20 properties), while they may only impact 36.49% of the heritage located in South America.

Erosion and siltation/deposition is already impacting 33 properties in the region, and may harm 36 properties in the future. Avalanche/landslide is identified as a potential threat by 39 site managers.

Comments refer to the risk of fires, mainly regarding forest fires. Sites located in seismic regions report the impacts of earthquakes. Volcanic eruption is also a risk for some sites in the region. Landslides are also common in the feedback from the participants. Some of them make the connection between this and climate change.

### **3.4.7 Buildings and development**

Starting with the specific analysis for each of the 13 factors, buildings and development affect 91% of cultural heritage, 87.78% of natural heritage and 75% of mixed properties. Both South America and Central America and Mexico rated this factor among the top five impacts.

Within the subcategories offered by the questionnaire, interpretative and visitation facilities is the most mentioned secondary factor, along with housing. However, with this factor it is key to differentiate between positive and negative impacts.

Thus, it is evident that interpretative and visitation facilities tend to generate a positive impact on the properties, with a total of 89 properties that perceive that these infrastructures currently generate positive values, and 57 that consider that they may do so in the future. The origin of this secondary factor, when considered positive by site managers, is mainly located inside the property, with 102 mentions.

Likewise, major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure is also valued positively, with a total of 41 properties that currently identify a positive impact. However, 25 responses also pointed out that this type of accommodation could have a negative impact in their case at present.

Compared to those secondary factors that receive more positive feedback, housing clearly leads the negative impacts in the region: 46 site managers indicated that housing currently causes problems for the property, and 40 chose to mention that it could potentially be harmful. This secondary factor of housing is seen by participants in the negatively impacting side of the table

as located outside the property (55 responses); 31 properties considered that the origin of the negative impact was inside the property.

Housing currently seems to cause more negative effects in Central America and Mexico, where 39.21% of the properties (20) mentioned this is a current issue; South America also identified housing as a current problem for 31.08% of the sites (23). On the other hand, only 15% of the properties (3 out of 20) considered in the Caribbean that housing is affecting them at this moment.

Next, commercial development is the negative secondary factor with the most mentions, reaching 26 at the current time, and 24 as a potential risk. Finally, industrial areas generate current or potential problems in different subregions and properties, according to the questionnaires received.

Comments from participants reconfirm the above information, highlighting the importance of visitor facilities that increase visitor experiences and number of visitors. On the contrary, new buildings, increased urban development or different risks, like coastal development associated with tourism, among others, are identified as perceived threats, both inside and in the surrounding areas of the properties.

#### **3.4.8 Transportation infrastructure**

Transportation infrastructure tends to show more results in the negative area, although some positive effects are also identified.

The most mentioned secondary factor is clearly ground transport infrastructure, which produces a significant result: it is affecting 37 properties in a negative way at present, while it also provides positive impacts to 47 properties. Looking to the sites that currently identify the ground transport infrastructure as a problem at their site, South America reports this situation for 29.73% of its properties (22), followed by Central America and Mexico, with 25.49% of the sites affected (13). The Caribbean subregion shows fewer problems regarding ground transport infrastructure, with only 10% of its heritage (two properties) currently affected.

Secondly, the effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure are mentioned by participants: the balance for this secondary factor is clearly negative, with 45 properties that consider that it is currently having a negative impact on the conservation of the property; 19 site managers also identified potential risks for this secondary factor.

In the comments provided by participants, it can be seen that infrastructures such as roads or airports have improved accessibility and the arrival of visitors in some cases. Faced with this, many site managers mention the problems generated by increasing demands for vehicular access to properties or the challenge of traffic congestion, especially in urban sites and large cities. This traffic can be more continuous and permanent, with impacts on the property caused by vibrations from the continuous passage of vehicles, or it can be seasonal, with a clear summer increase, due to the arrival of more tourism.

#### **3.4.9 Services infrastructures**

In the factor including different services infrastructures, localized utilities, including TV, radio and mobile phone towers, sewerage works or incinerators, are the issues most mentioned by sites managers as negative: 41 properties consider that at present, localized utilities negative affect the property, while 26 site managers also highlighted it as a potential risk. This secondary factor

has a higher negative impact in South American countries (32.43% of the properties) than in other subregions, where the figure is 25% for Caribbean countries and 23.52% for Central America and Mexico.

This factor is followed by major linear utilities, which is currently rated as negative in 34 properties and potentially in 20. Water infrastructure is also causing problems at 22 properties at present, and may even affect more in the future, as 25 site managers considered it a potential option.

In the positive impacts of the table, renewable energy facilities already generate positive impacts in the conservation of 27 properties and may do so in 17. In turn, water infrastructure, which was mentioned as negative in 47 cases, also has 24 current positive mentions.

The comments received indicate that there is a greater demand for antennas, lines and communication towers, especially linked to mobile phones. According to site managers, this infrastructure causes an alteration of the landscape; alternatively, there are also sites that point out a lack of internet or mobile phone service at the site as a problem. Some managers report the installation of solar energy systems, generally perceived as positive. However, some comment that photovoltaic panels can have a visual impact on urban heritage.

#### **3.4.10 Pollution**

Pollution is evidently mentioned for the negative impacts it generates on the properties in Latin America and the Caribbean with the 197 current negative mentions throughout the region. The origin of this factor is considered as both coming from inside the property (150) and outside its boundaries (190).

Solid waste stands out, with 70 properties that already identify it as a problem today. Examples such as mine tailings, litter, industrial waste and household rubbish would also potentially impact 34 properties. By subregion, the analysis shows that 55% of the properties in the Caribbean face this problem now (11 out of 20 properties), and half of the properties inscribed in Central America and Mexico (26 out of 51) identify solid waste as a current problem, closely followed by South America with 44.59% affected.

Air pollution, with 31 mentions, ground water pollution, with 30 mentions, surface water pollution, with 28 mentions and pollution of marine waters, with 25 mentions, make up the following group of secondary factors identified by the site managers as negatively impacting heritage at present.

Garbage pollution and increasing plastic waste are some of the most mentioned problems in the questionnaire comments. Two properties also point out that increased fires cause smoke and air pollution. Others point out that this air pollution is a consequence of traffic. Some site managers identify the need to have a master plan to deal with pollution, while another shares the implementation of programmes with the local community for solid waste management.

#### **3.4.11 Other human activities**

Other human activities clearly have negative consequences for the sites in the Latin America and Caribbean region – 142 site managers identify current impacts in the properties, while 91 consider it could potentially affect the heritage. The origin of the negative impacts come both from inside the property (133 responses) and outside the boundaries (122 responses).

Illegal activities are currently negatively impacting 75 properties, meaning 56.76% of the South American inscribed properties, 49.02% of Central America and Mexico and 40% of the properties in the Caribbean. In addition, 39 of the sites in the whole region identify a potential threat regarding illegal activities.

Deliberate destruction of heritage is also a source of concern for 48 sites, which marked it as a current negative factor in the properties. This subfactor affects 36.4% of properties in South America and 33.33% in Central America and Mexico, and 20% in the Caribbean. It includes vandalism, graffiti, arson and politically motivated acts, among others.

Civil unrest is a concern for eight properties in South America (three sites in Bolivia, two in Peru, and one site in Brazil, Chile and Colombia) and six in Central America (all located in Mexico). There is no mention of civil unrest in the Caribbean subregion.

According to site managers' responses, war is currently present in two sites and terrorism in three. All these responses come from Colombia.

Site managers commented on illegal occupation of space, vandalism and graffiti in the properties. In addition, illegal fishing, poaching, illegal logging and illegal extraction of geological resources are present in the region. Some participants considered that civil unrest in the country had slowed down the momentum at the site to implement the management needed.

#### **3.4.12 *Invasive/alien species or hyperabundant species***

Invasive/alien species or hyperabundant species is only mentioned in relation to its negative impacts in the sites, with almost no positive view of this factor. Invasive/Alien terrestrial species are already impacting 50 of the sites in the region, reaching 35.14% for South America, 35.29% for Central America and Mexico and 30% for the Caribbean; 32 sites may also face potential problems due to terrestrial species.

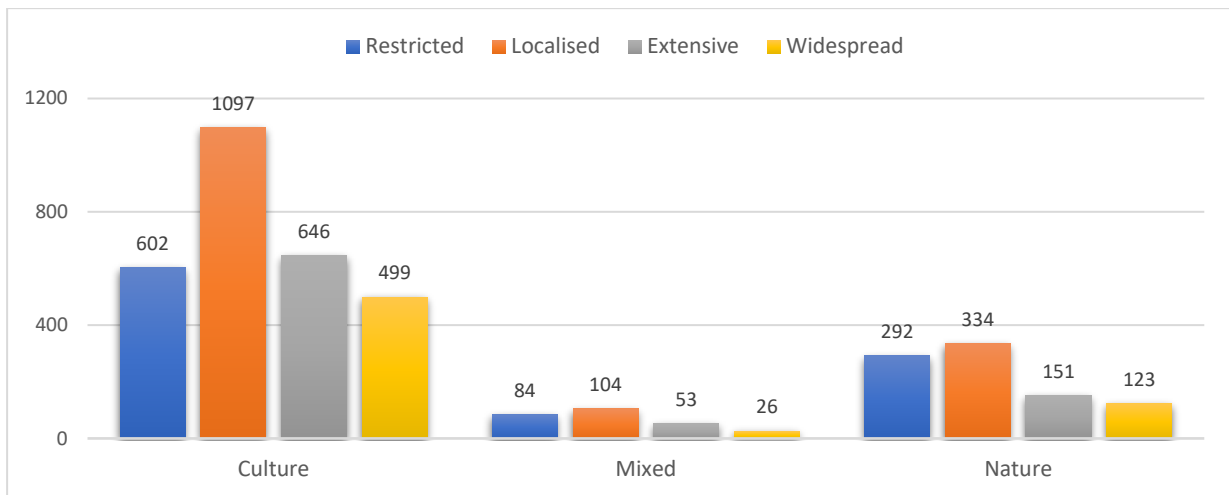
Translocated species are the second most present issue, with 20 site managers choosing to consider it as a current negative factor. Modified genetic material is not currently impacting the region, but four sites identified it as a potential threat.

Sites refer to different situations in their comments, where it is evident that, in general, invasive exotic species displace native species of flora and fauna, altering ecosystems and their diversity. Some site managers report monitoring mechanisms to face and prevent the changing situations.

#### ***Assessment of the factors***

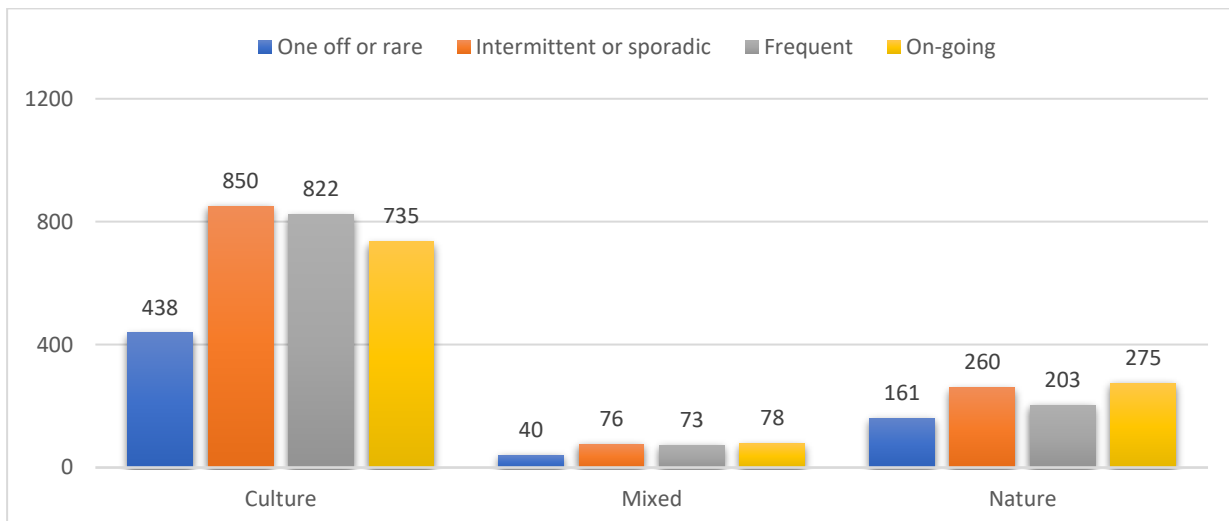
Site managers were asked to provide an assessment of the impacts previously identified. The first step was the spatial scale of the area affected by the factor that could be considered as 'restricted' (i.e. affecting less than 10% of the property's area at any one time); 'localized' (i.e. affecting 11%–50%); 'extensive' (i.e. affecting 51%–90%) or 'widespread' (i.e. affecting 91–100%).

All three categories of site tend to mark 'localized' as their first option. For natural and mixed sites their second option would be 'restricted', while cultural heritage managers identify the area more commonly as 'extensive' (Figure 3.6).



**Figure 3.6.** Spatial scale – Area affected by the factor

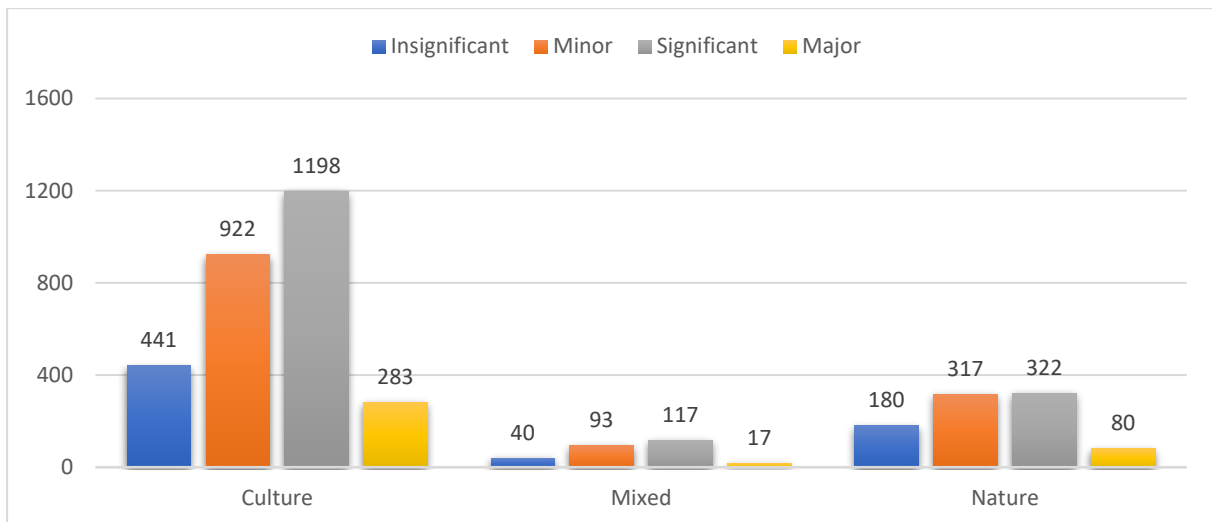
The temporal scale, which asks about the occurrence of the impact, is also addressed. Results show that ‘intermittent or sporadic’, ‘frequent’ and ‘on-going’ are the three most selected options when assessing the impacts, providing quite similar numbers (Figure 3.7).



**Figure 3.7.** Temporal scale – Occurrence of the impact

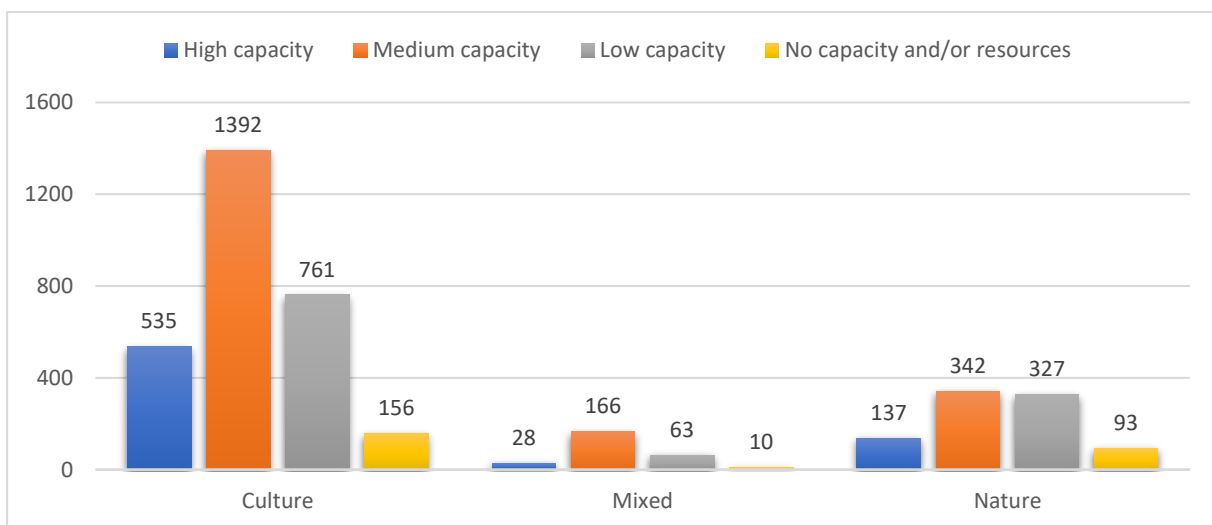
A key question in the assessment is the impact that the factor had on the attributes of the inscribed property. This question addresses the impact on the Outstanding Universal Value. In this case, the three categories of properties offer similar numbers: ‘significant’ is the option chosen in a greater number of questionnaires, with 1,637 mentions, closely followed by ‘minor’ (1,332 mentions). The option that could be more serious for the sites, ‘major impact’, is by far the least selected in this assessment (Figure 3.8).





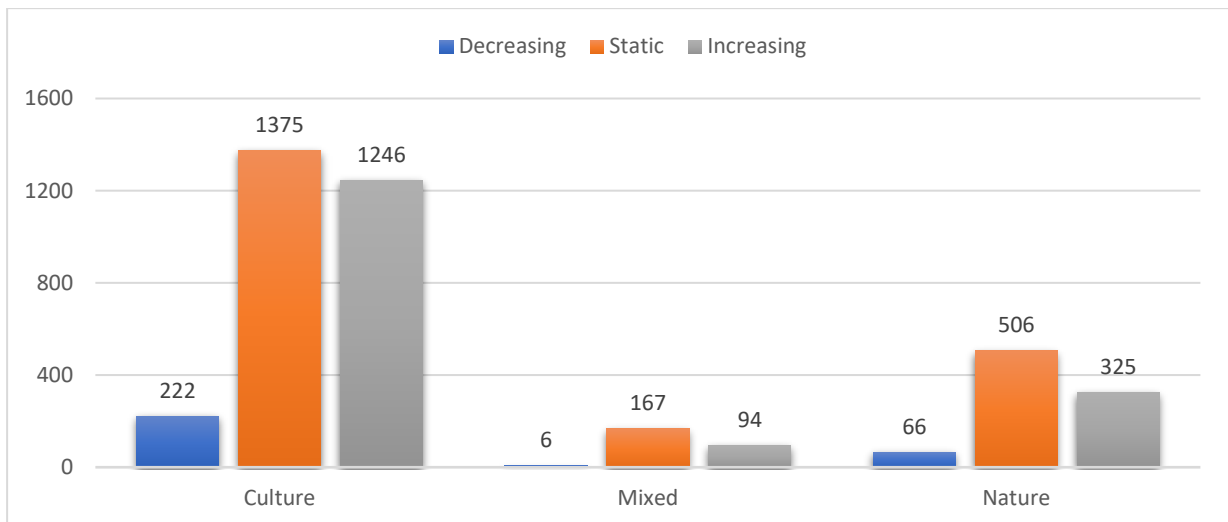
**Figure 3.8.** Impact – Impact on the attributes

The management response looks at the capacity of the site to respond to these impacts: it assesses the capacity (i.e. staff time, resources, budget, knowledge) of management to respond to the negative or positive factors. The received questionnaires report that the current management response is of medium capacity, with 1,900 responses. Low capacity is also addressed in 1,151 cases. ‘No capacity and/or resources’ is the least selected option. Among categories, cultural and mixed properties tend to opt for ‘medium capacity’ more clearly than natural properties; for natural heritage, participants provided very similar numbers on the medium and low capacity of management response to the impacts (Figure 3.9).



**Figure 3.9.** Management response – Capacity of management to respond

Over the past six years, the trend in the Latin America and Caribbean region is more static (2,048 responses) and increasing (1,665); ‘decreasing’ is not generally a chosen option by site managers (Figure 3.10).

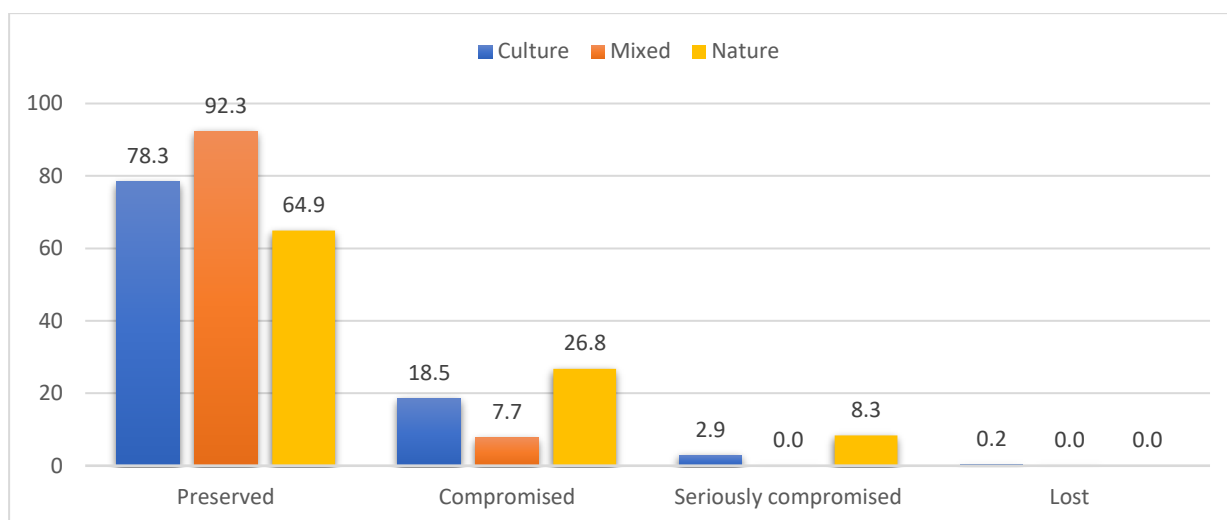


**Figure 3.10.** Trend – Development over the last six years

For the properties inscribed as serial (national or transnational), the questionnaire asked respondents to identify which components of the property are impacted by each factor, in an open-box response. In general, the comments received from site managers show that the factors tend to have a fairly regular or similar impact on all the components of the inscribed serial sites. However, in some of the questionnaires it is evident that there is a factor that can have a specific impact for only one of the components, without affecting the rest, according to the comments of various participants.

For the last part of the assessment, participants were asked to predict what the state of conservation of each attribute would be approximately six years from the time of completing the questionnaire. Among the 655 attributes identified by site managers, the main part would be preserved (496 attributes), while 131 would be compromised. It is positive that only 27 are considered to be at risk of a serious compromised situation, and only 1 attribute was considered as 'lost', in this hypothetical exercise.

By percentages, 75.7% of the attributes of the heritage for the whole region would be preserved. By category of site, mixed properties offer a significantly better result, as 92.3% of their attributes will be preserved, followed by 78.3% of cultural properties and then 64.9% of natural properties. Natural properties chose the option of the attributes being compromised more frequently (26.8%) and seriously compromised (8.3%), showing a more negative approach in the trend for the next six years than the cultural properties (Figure 3.11).



**Figure 3.11.** Prediction of the state of conservation at next cycle of Periodic Reporting

### **3.4.13 Other factors**

Additional input concerning other factors was provided by some site managers, such as in relation to the role of the local community in managing factors, coordination issues between different actors, difficulties in monitoring and application of regulatory provisions, and changes in activities resulting in abandonment and migration of the Indigenous population. In addition, positive commentary was provided, such as in relation to management, capacity-building and rehabilitation work.

### **3.4.14 Serial inscriptions**

It should be noted that the factors addressed in previous questions could affect multiple components included in a serial site in different ways: for some properties, all of the components could be affected by the factors, and there is no specific impact on individual components, but some factors are more relevant to certain components. Additional information was provided regarding specific impacts on certain components of serial properties.

### **3.4.15 Final observation on factors affecting the properties and outlook**

It is clear that there is a higher number of factors negatively affecting the sites than positively. The top priorities are similar among regions and the actions regarding the management and institutional factors seem to be a clear key instrument for improving conservation of World Heritage properties, and should therefore be even more reinforced. Social and cultural uses of heritage offer some positive options too.

Biological resource use/modification and climate change are highlighted factors among site managers in charge of natural and mixed properties, with a clear tendency to consider those impacts as negative and increasing.

In general, factors are having a localized impact in the sites, being both intermittent and frequent. Those factors have a significant impact on sites. Site managers consider that they have a medium capacity to respond, but also affirm that in the next six-year cycle, nearly 76% of the attributes in the region will be preserved.

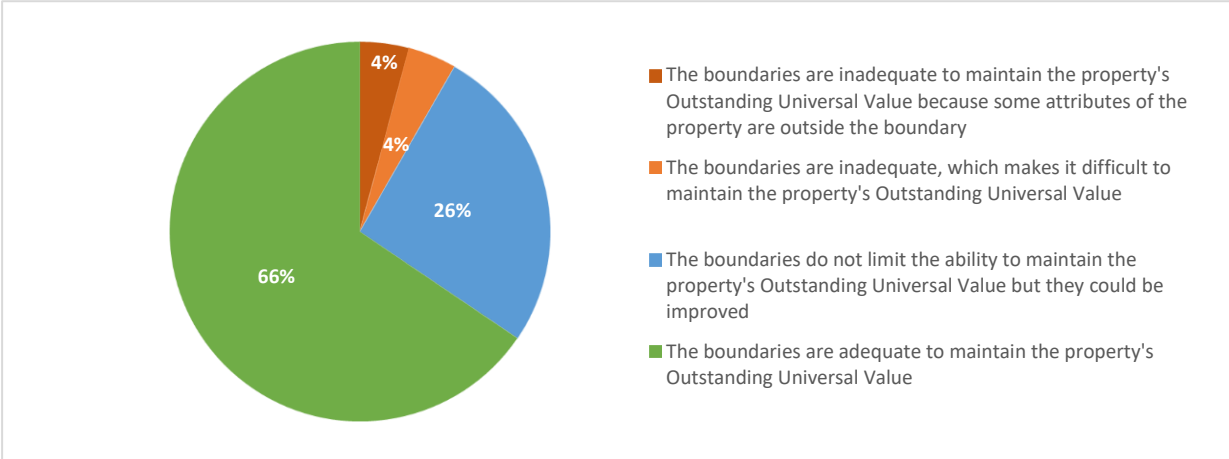
## **3.5 Protection and management of the property**

The conservation of the World Heritage properties is intrinsically connected to the protection levels and management systems implemented at property level, which become key factors in guaranteeing the integrity of the property and the implementation of objectives linked to sustainable development. The following section focuses on these protection and management

issues which, as observed in the factors section, are also perceived as the element with the greatest impact by site managers.

**3.5.1 Boundaries and buffer zones**

In general, site managers from Latin America and the Caribbean consider that the boundaries are adequate for the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the properties, reported by 95 properties. For 38 properties, however, their boundaries do not limit the ability to maintain the property’s OUV, but they could be improved. On the other hand, 12 properties would need to work on this item since the boundaries were defined as inadequate by their site managers (Figure 3.12).



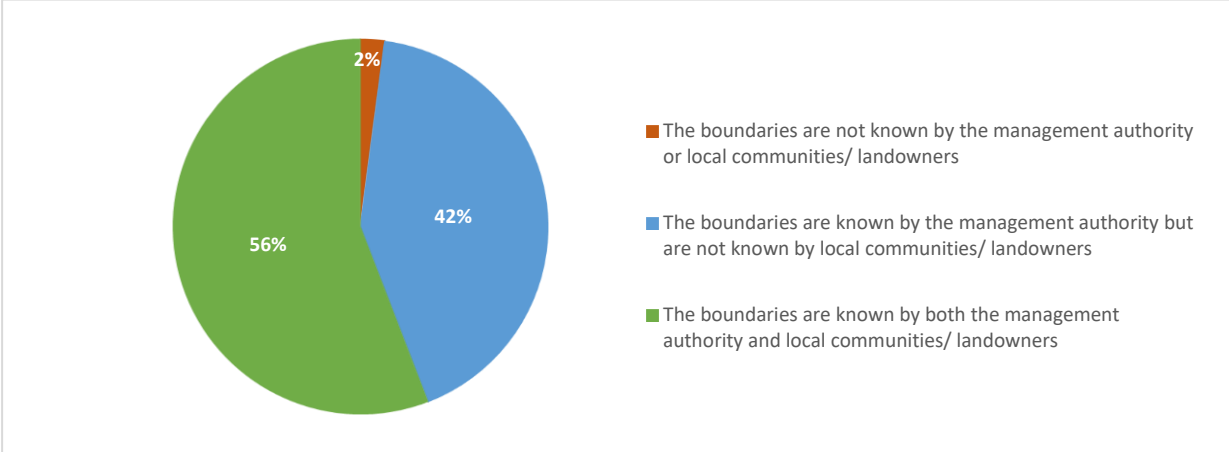
**Figure 3.12.** Adequacy of boundaries to maintain the OUV

Moving to another key figure for the protection of sites, buffer zones are getting more attention as a useful instrument for the sustainable conservation of properties. Currently, 19% of properties are reported to have no buffer zone in the LAC region, meaning 28 properties (Table 3.5).

**Table 3.5. Number of properties – Adequacy of buffer zones**

Region/Subregion	The property has <b>no buffer zone</b> and <b>does not need one</b>	The property has <b>no buffer zone, but there is a need for one</b>	<b>Inadequacies</b> in the buffer zones <b>make it difficult</b> to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value	The buffer zones <b>do not limit</b> the ability to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value but they could be improved	The buffer zones are <b>adequate</b> to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>59</b>
Caribbean	3	3	1	5	8
Central America and Mexico	3	5	8	14	21
South America	2	12	4	26	30

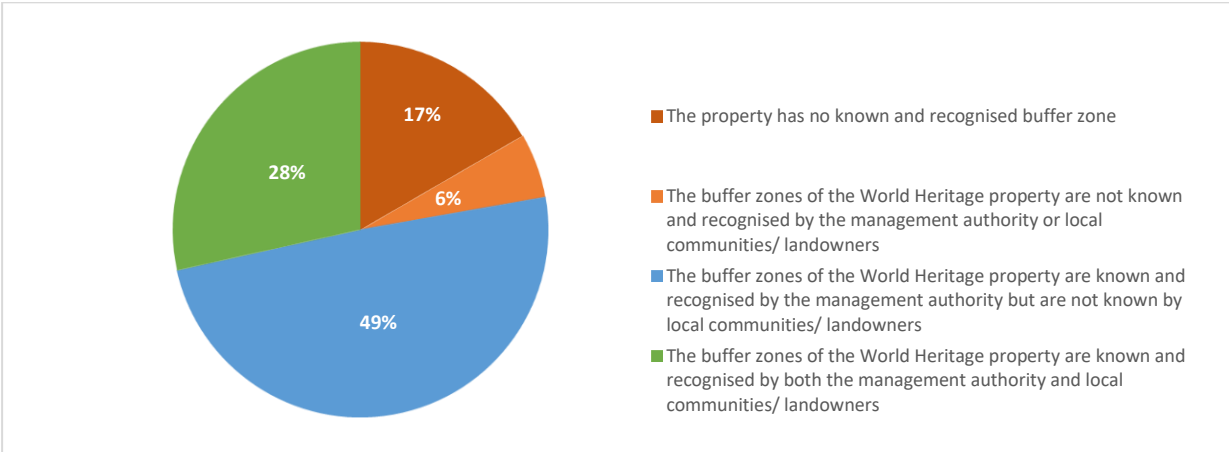
Site managers considered World Heritage boundaries are more effective to protect the Outstanding Universal Values than the buffer zones (66% and 40% adequate, respectively). The knowledge of boundaries is good for both authorities and local communities in 81 properties in the region (56% of responses). For another 61 sites, those boundaries are not known by local communities (42% of the region) – authorities are aware of those boundaries, but they are not known by local communities (Figure 3.13).



**Figure 3.13.** Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?

The boundaries of 75% of mixed properties and 70% of natural properties are well known by management authorities, local communities and landowners, while only 49% of cultural properties are recognized by all these stakeholders.

The knowledge of buffer zones is not so high, since only 41 site managers considered that both communities and authorities recognize those, dropping to 28% of the total of respondents (Figure 3.14).



**Figure 3.14.** Level of knowledge of boundaries of the buffer zone

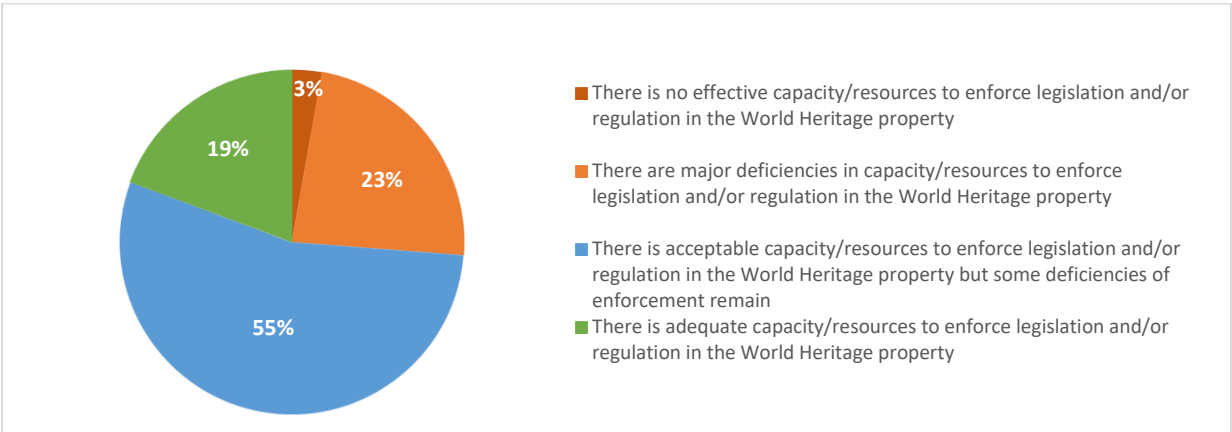
Buffer zones can create significant issues for property protection. Site managers reported that urban properties are mostly impacted by threats of urban sprawl, especially in the buffer zones. These include construction of houses, lodgings, shops and industries, and pollution. Recommendations included the establishment of a wider buffer zone to help local governments guarantee sustainable development and combat ongoing urbanization processes.

The buffer zones of the World Heritage properties are known by 49% of both the management authorities and local communities/landowners, while 17% reported that the property has no known and recognized buffer zone.

In rural properties, communities tend to be unaware of the boundaries, especially of the buffer zones, sometimes resulting in encroachment. For archaeological properties, there are some concerns with possibilities of theft by removal of artefacts. Recommendations include that boundaries should be made clearer to local communities to increase protection.

**3.5.2 Protective designation**

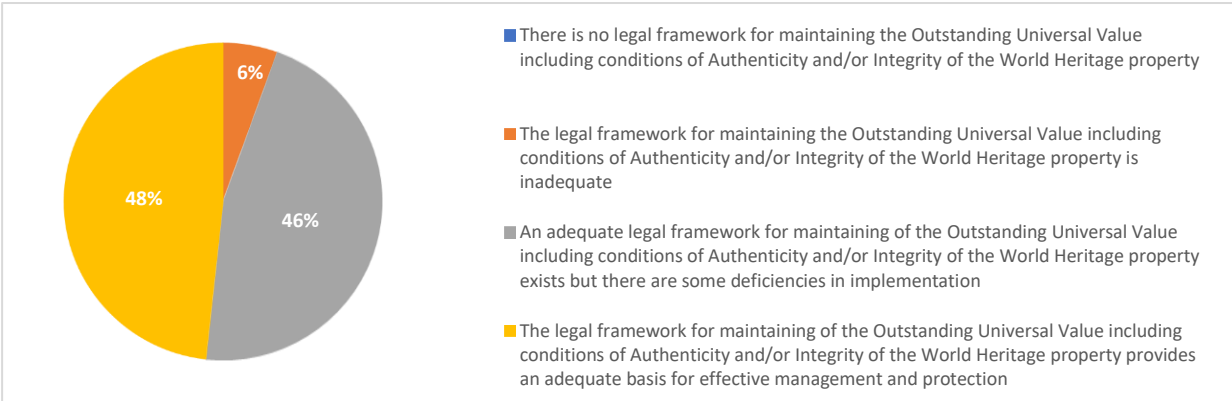
The majority of World Heritage properties (55%) consider that they have acceptable capacities and resources to enforce the existing legislation (79 out of 145 properties). However, there is a need to strengthen articulation, awareness and knowledge of the legislation to protect heritage (Figure 3.15). This is particularly relevant in the buffer zone, where legal frameworks are not adequately implemented and where most of the human activities, such as tourism services, development and land use, occur.



**Figure 3.15.** Can the legal framework (i.e. legislation and/or regulation) be enforced?

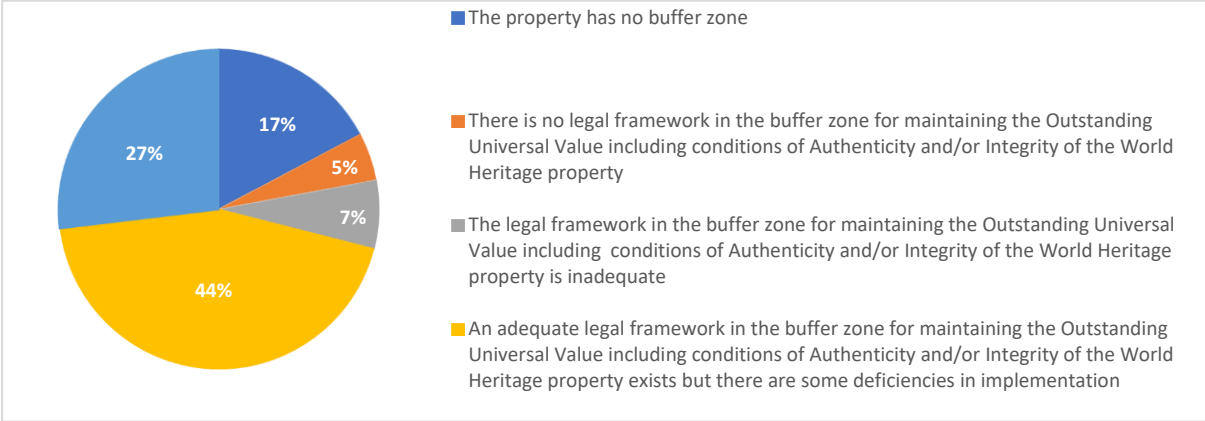
World Heritage properties are protected by a legal framework operating at three levels: the property boundaries, the buffer zone and the wider setting of the properties.

At the property level, the legal framework is adequate to protect the integrity and authenticity of 48% of Latin American and the Caribbean World Heritage properties, but it is only partially adequate with some deficiencies in another 46% (Figure 3.16).



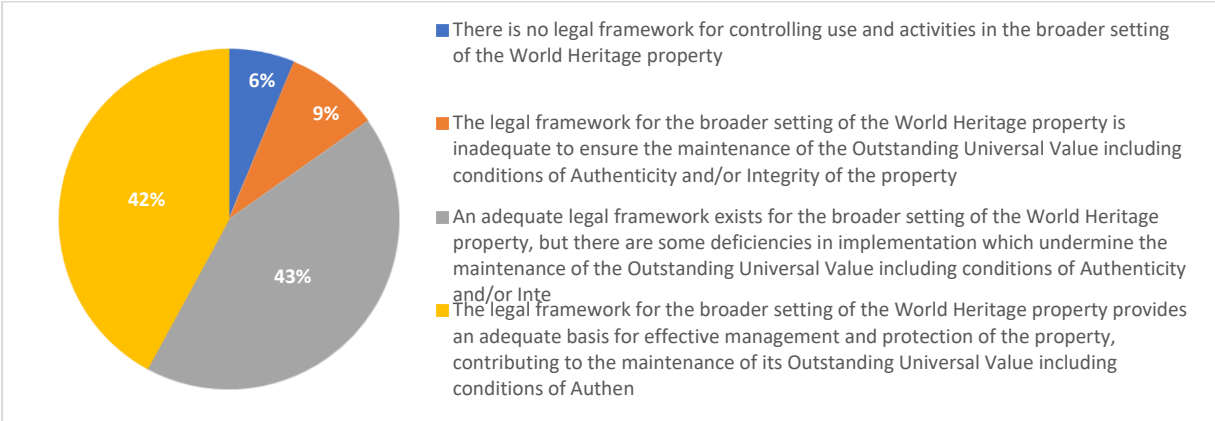
**Figure 3.16.** Legal framework effectiveness to protect property's Outstanding Universal Values

At the second level, with regard to the buffer zone, the legal framework is adequate to protect the integrity and authenticity of 27% of the properties (Figure 3.17).



**Figure 3.17.** Legal framework effectiveness to protect Outstanding Universal Values in the buffer zones

At the third level, the broader setting, the legal framework increases its effectiveness to fully protect Outstanding Universal Values (42%), but there are still some deficiencies in implementation, which undermines the maintenance of the Outstanding Universal Values including authenticity and integrity (Figure 3.18).

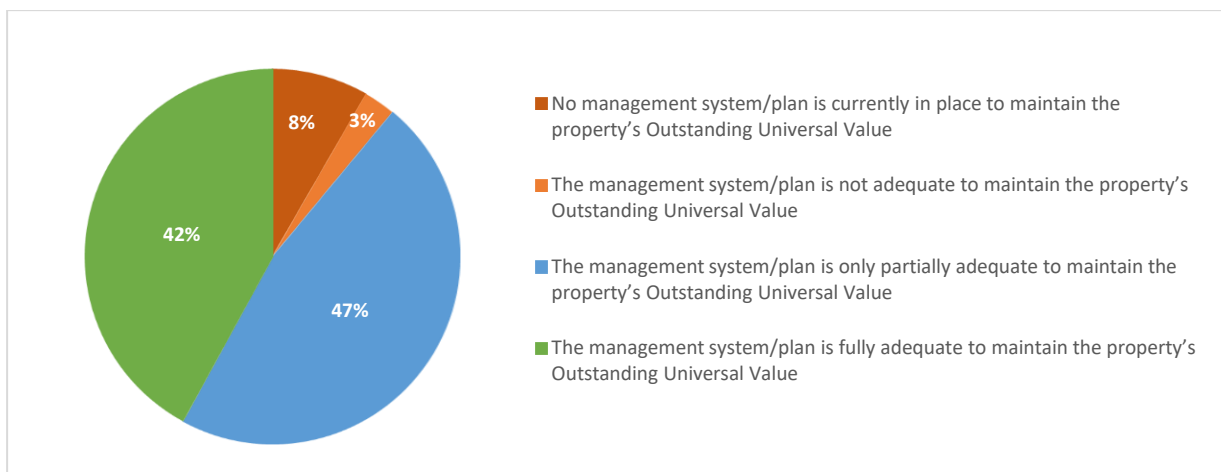


**Figure 3.18.** Legal framework effectiveness to protect Outstanding Universal Values in the broader setting of the property

Accordingly, the buffer zone is the most vulnerable area when the implementation of legal frameworks is drastically reduced or does not exist. This lack of protection related to buffer zones in the region is an obvious aspect for consideration in the future Action Plan.

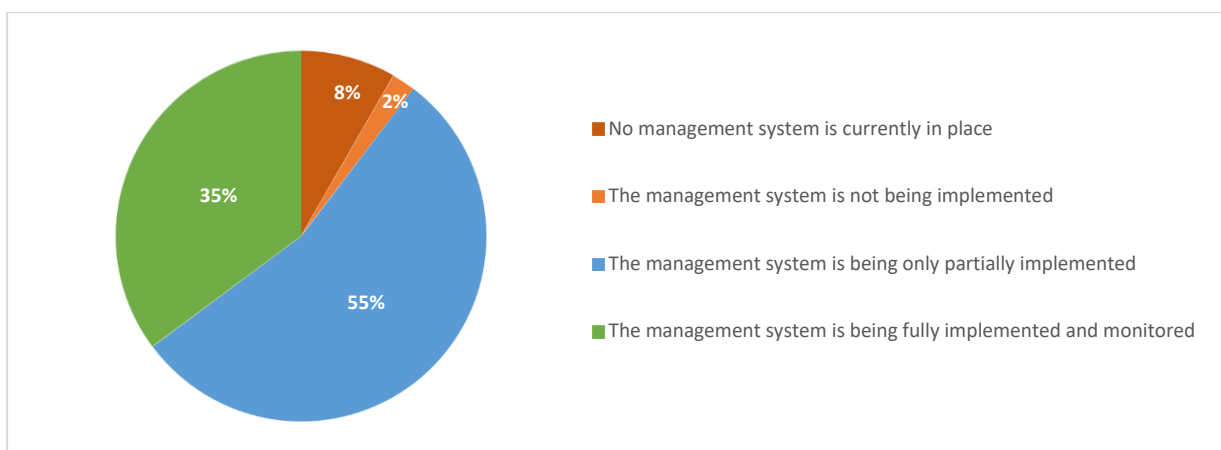
**3.5.3 Management system**

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the primary system for 83% of the World Heritage properties is the public management system. This system is listed at the national level for 44% of the properties. There is low participation of the local community in management, with only two properties opting for this response, and one property operated under the traditional management system (0.7%). Private management is the system in four properties in the region. Site managers consider the management systems are partially adequate to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value in 47% of the properties, and 42% fully adequate, with significant differences among subregions (60% for the Caribbean, 38% in Central America and Mexico, and 38% in South America) (Figure 3.19).



**Figure 3.19.** Level of adequacy of the management system

Overall, only 51 properties (35%) report that the management system is being fully implemented and monitored with only 25 (17%) properties having an existing annual work/action plan with all activities being implemented and monitored (Figure 3.20).



**Figure 3.20.** Level of implementation of the management system

With regard to the management tools put in place, management plans stand as the most considered instrument, listed for 68% of the properties. Even though properties managers recognized the importance of management systems for the protection of the Outstanding Universal Values, ten properties do not have management plans in place (nine cultural and one natural property, two of which are on the List in Danger).

Together with the management plans, zoning plans are the most popular tools to protect World Heritage. A statutory management plan and an annual work plan are also considered by more than half of the inscribed properties. Looking to the implementation of the annual action plan, 52% of participants mentioned that many of the activities in the action plan are currently being implemented at site level. A code of practice related to industry is the less selected option, only present in eight properties in the region (Table 3.6).

**Table 3.6. Number of properties – Management tools used at property level**

Region/Subregion	Caribbean	Central America and Mexico	South America	Total
A management plan	14	38	25	99
A statutory management plan or zoning plan for the property	13	33	29	84



An annual work plan or business plan	9	29	17	<b>55</b>
Governance mechanisms that foster and respect traditional practices, knowledge and uses of the property	12	21	20	<b>61</b>
Other forms of statutory or non-statutory plans (e.g. strategic plans)	8	19	16	<b>56</b>
A visitor/visitation management plan	4	22	22	<b>52</b>
An environmental management framework	8	16	12	<b>46</b>
A disaster, climate or conflict risk management plan	8	18	26	<b>43</b>
Mechanisms to promote equal participation among and within groups, including different levels of authority, local communities, Indigenous peoples, women and men, and other specific groups	7	16	12	<b>43</b>
Agreed 'Memorandums of Understanding' between different managing institutions, groups or others, including documents agreed with local communities for management	7	14	20	<b>41</b>
A joint approach to management of cultural and natural heritage	6	7	9	<b>34</b>
A framework for inclusive economic development, including equal access and distribution of resources and opportunities arising from the protection of the property	6	11	10	<b>29</b>
An integrated management plan combining World Heritage and any other designations	5	10	47	<b>29</b>
Traditional ways of management recognized by local communities and other specific groups	4	7	28	<b>27</b>
An assessment of biological and cultural diversity and ecosystem services provided by the property	4	6	21	<b>22</b>
A code of practice developed by local communities or other groups	2	5	4	<b>17</b>
A code of practice developed by industry	0	4	14	<b>8</b>
Other	1	3	0	<b>13</b>

With regard to the coordination between the various levels of administration (i.e. national/federal; regional/provincial/state; local/municipal, etc.) involved in the management of the World Heritage property, 93 properties (64%) considered that the coordination exists, but could be improved. In the region, this intergovernmental coordination is adequate for 20% of participants. However, 16% of the properties have little coordination between the range of administrative bodies involved in their management.

Regarding the implementation of participatory approaches in management systems, site managers in general offered information showing that management systems include formal mechanisms and procedures which ensure the participation and contribution of different groups, such as local authorities (146 properties) and communities (126), also integrating the participation of women (108), but only a few of them reported existing mechanisms for Indigenous participation (44). In 49% of the properties, the management systems promote local communities' participation under the category of 'some participation', as well as 47% of landowners and 33% of women.

Looking at the coordination and communication between site managers and different groups, results do not necessarily match with the sustainable development and community participation priorities: the highest level of cooperation is with researchers (present in 83% of the properties).

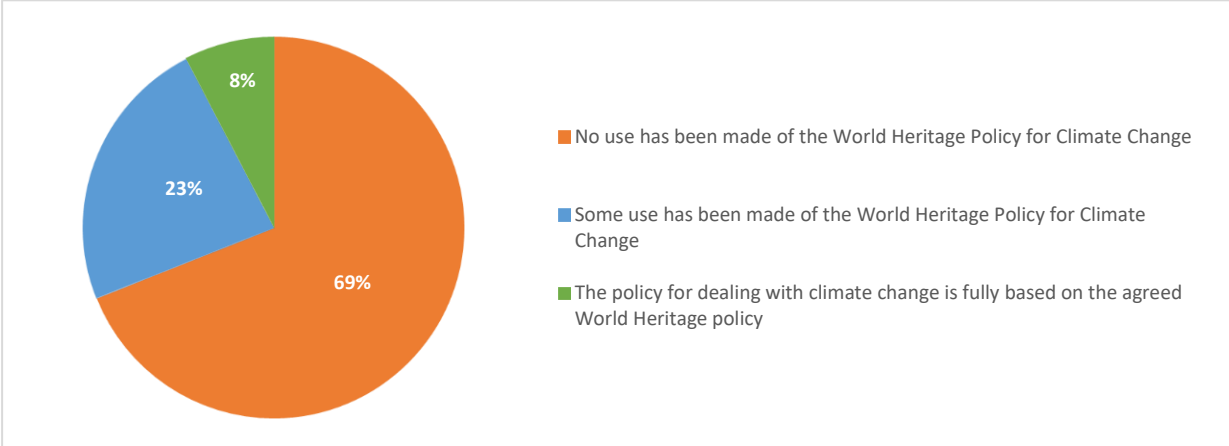
The cooperation with tourists and visitors is also higher than that with groups such as women, youth and children.

Indigenous peoples are the most under-represented sector in management systems. In 61% of the World Heritage properties, the existence of mechanisms or procedures to ensure the participation of Indigenous peoples was considered as 'non-applicable'. Collaboration with Indigenous peoples is only present in 31% of the sites.

Most of the site managers considered that the World Heritage management systems contribute significantly to integrating the human rights-based approach, to social inclusion and equity, and to providing ecosystem services benefits to the local community. There are 99 of 145 properties that integrate a human rights-based approach in their management system. In addition, the management system contributes to social inclusion and equity, improving opportunities for all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status in 64% of the region, representing 93 properties.

World Heritage Convention-related tools are considered in the region to some extent – 38 properties (26%) confirm some use has been made of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape at their site.

Unfortunately, a significant majority of the sites in Latin America and the Caribbean, with 100 responses (69% of the region) have not used the World Heritage Policy for Climate Change, identifying that, even though climate change is considered as a clear negative and increasing factor, the existing tools are not well known by site managers (Figure 3.21).



**Figure 3.21.** Use of the World Heritage Policy for Climate Change

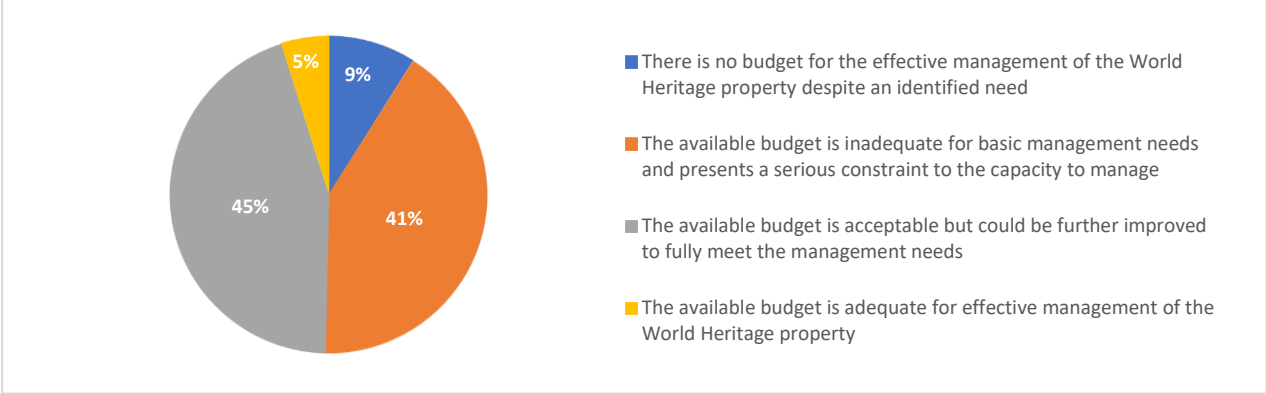
The situation is similar for the Strategy for Reducing Risks from Disasters at World Heritage Properties, since 55% of responses reported no use of that tool. The implementation of this risk-related tool is present in 12% of the properties, primarily in the Caribbean.

### 3.6 Human and financial resources

In Latin America and the Caribbean, funding sources in World Heritage properties are primarily from the local, national or regional governments. The main sources among these are national and federal, with 48.3% of funds obtained.

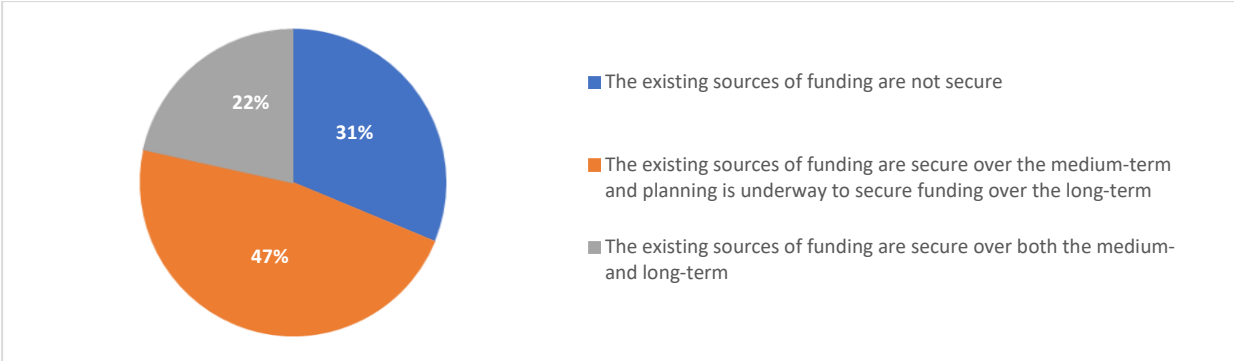
International assistance given by the World Heritage Fund supports only 0.4% of the projects implemented in World Heritage properties, and none of its running costs. Multilateral funding (GEF, World Bank, etc.) is a significant source for the SIDS countries, providing 17% of the funds

for the Caribbean. According to the information provided, the region could be divided into two large groups: 45% of World Heritage properties have acceptable budgets for their management, while for 41% of the site managers, the budget is inadequate. Only in 5% of the properties is funding adequate to fully meet the management needs. There are 9% of the properties with no budget for management; one of the properties inscribed in the List of Danger was reported with no budget (Figure 3.22).



**Figure 3.22.** Current budget of World Heritage properties and stakeholders

Access to funding is as important as its sustainability. In this regard, 47% of the properties have secure sources of funding in the medium term and 22% over the medium and long term. In 31% of the properties, the funds are not secure (Figure 3.23). This situation is worrying, considering that the COVID-19 pandemic and new international cooperation priorities have reduced the availability of funds in many of the protected natural and cultural areas in Latin America and the Caribbean.

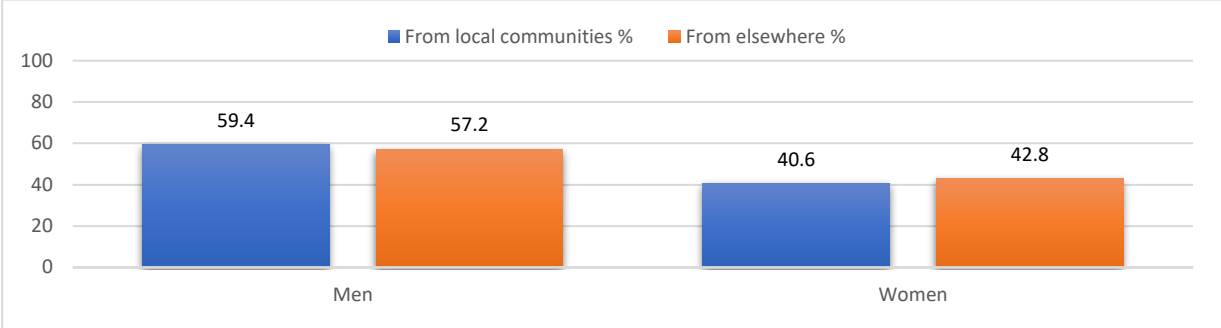


**Figure 3.23.** Percentage of World Heritage properties with regards to availability of existing funding secure

Funding sources are more uncertain in cultural properties than in natural or mixed properties, with 36% of the existing funding in cultural properties described as not secure. This lack of secure funding also affects 25% of mixed and 20% of natural properties in the region.

Site managers mentioned several outstanding experiences on long-term funding sources, such as the one implemented at Tikal National Park (Guatemala), where entrance fees were collected by the Security Unit members. From 2017 to the date, funds were increased when the Ministry of Culture and Sports and a local private bank signed an agreement to allow the bank tellers to sell entrance tickets. Another experience comes from Coiba National Park and its Special Zone of Marine Protection (Colombia), established in 2004 by the Coiba Fund, which guarantees funds for the handling and management of the property.

Human resources partly meet the management needs of 67% of World Heritage properties in Latin America and the Caribbean, and are adequate in 25% of properties in the Caribbean, 8% in Central America and Mexico, and 8% in South America. With no significant differences by subregion, local communities' representants are involved in the management, conservation and interpretation of the World Heritage properties, reaching nearly 60% for men's participation and 57% for women's participation from the local community (Figure 3.24).

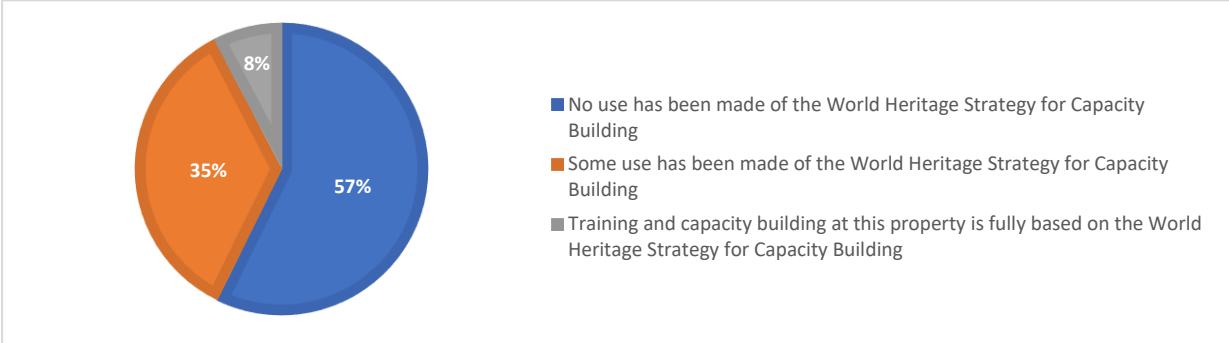


**Figure 3.24.** Distribution of men and women involved in the management, conservation, interpretation of the World Heritage properties and the extent to which they are drawn

Conservation, administration, and research and visitor management are the main professions of the property personnel; however, marketing/promotion and risk preparedness are the least frequent and available only in 14% and 17% of the properties, respectively.

Research, monitoring, management of tourism and conservation were identified as the main opportunities offered in the properties to enhance the personnel capacities of World Heritage properties. Training opportunities in marketing/promotion and risk preparedness are mostly missing, which links clearly with the existing human resources identified in the previous question.

Regarding the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy, site managers report that it is not being implemented in 57% of the properties and it is fully used in only 8% of them (Figure 3.25).



**Figure 3.25.** Percentage of the extent of World Heritage property that has made use of the World Heritage Strategy for Capacity Building at the property

However, site-based capacity-building plans or programmes are in place and fully implemented in 50% of the Caribbean properties, 14% in Central America and Mexico, and 14% in South America, with all technical skills being transferred to those managing the property locally.

In 20% of Caribbean properties, 41% in Central America and Mexico, and 46% in South America, these site-based capacity-building plans are partially implemented, and some technical skills are being transferred locally, but there is still a high dependency on external personal. The management activities of 27% of the properties are implemented by external staff and skills are not being transferred. Succession planning was listed as needing financial resources for the mobility and management of specialized technical personnel, including for community training.

Other recommendations include requests for the World Heritage Centre to provide the States Parties with training support for young executives, offering scholarships or on-site training.

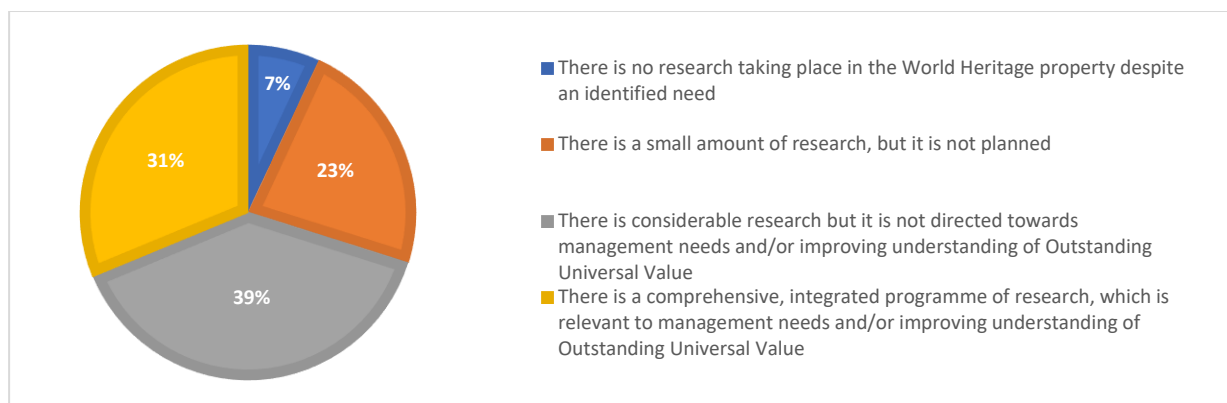
### 3.7 Scientific studies and research projects

Site managers recognize that in 52% of the World Heritage properties, the scientific and traditional knowledge to ensure the Outstanding Universal Values is acceptable, but there are areas for improvement. In 38% of properties it is adequate; in 8% is insufficient, and in 1% no knowledge was reported (two cultural properties).

Scientific and cultural knowledge was considered adequate in cultural properties more than in natural or mixed properties, and acceptable in most of the natural and mixed properties.

For 56 site managers, the available research is considerable, but it is not directed towards management needs. Therefore, a clear improvement area is identified here in relation to better linking research proposals to the management issues and needs identified in the daily coordination of the property.

At 93% of the World Heritage properties, scientific research actions are being implemented at different levels, but only in 31% of them are these integrated into a comprehensive programme to improve the understanding of Outstanding Universal Values (Figure 3.26).

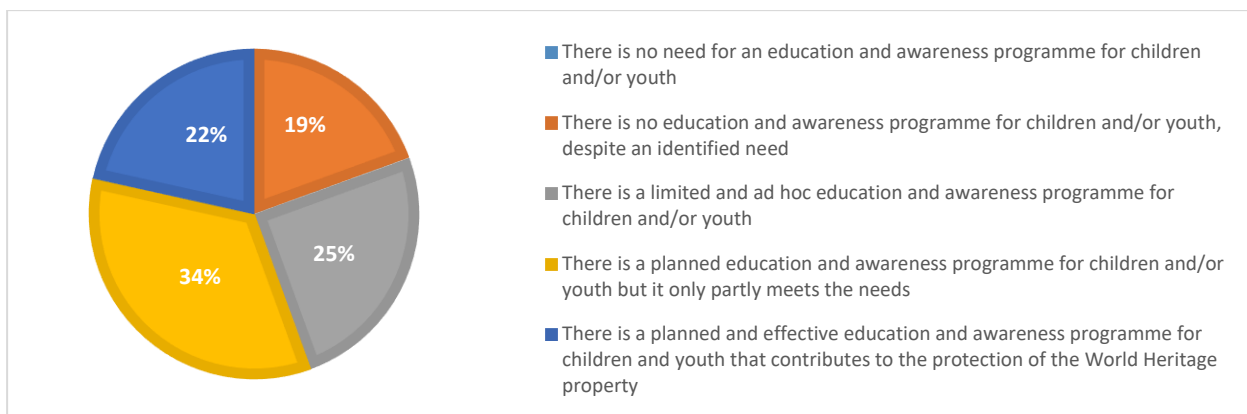


**Figure 3.26.** Planned programme of research at the property

The dissemination of data, results and lessons learned are more effective at the local level than at the national and international level. Communities have good access to this information in 92% of the properties; national agencies in 57%; and international agencies in 24%; 8% of the World Heritage properties do not disseminate information at any level (eight cultural, three natural and one mixed property).

### 3.8 Education, information and awareness raising

In Latin America and the Caribbean, 81% of the World Heritage properties have an education programme for children and youth; 22% of these programmes are planned and effective, 34% partially meets the needs and 25% are limited (Figure 3.27).

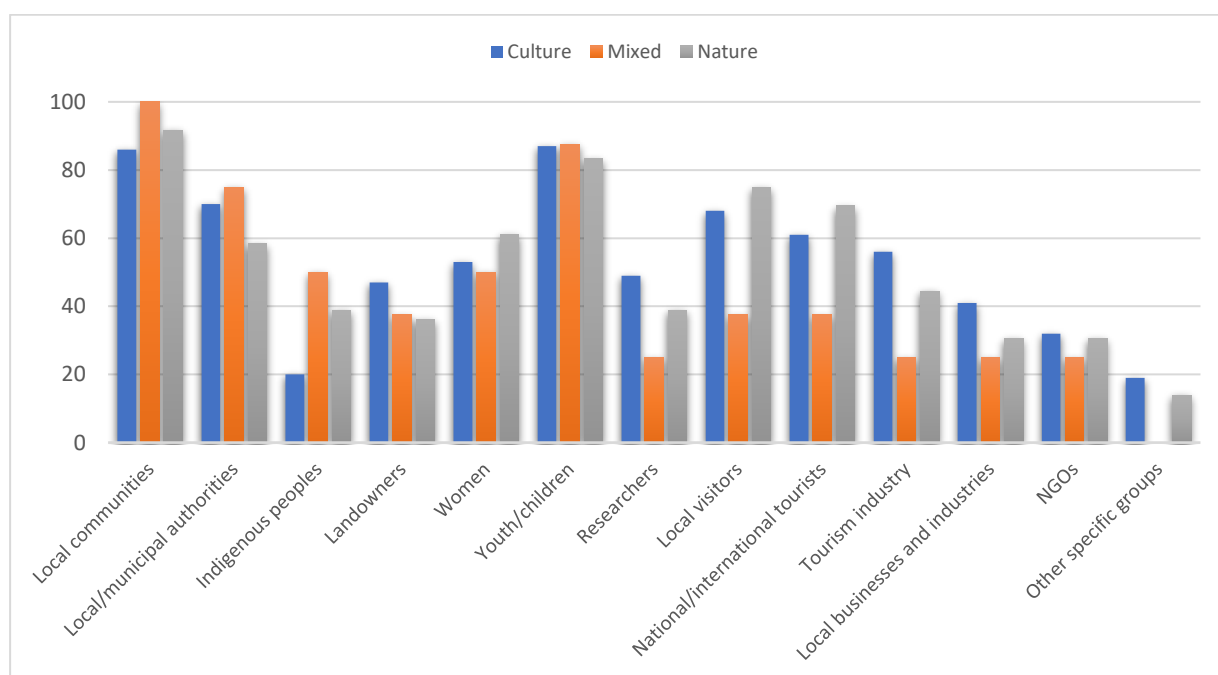


**Figure 3.27.** Heritage education programmes for children and/or youth

Researchers, local authorities, local visitors and international tourists, tourism sector and NGOs are mostly aware of the ramification of the inscription of World Heritage properties. However, this is not the situation for Indigenous peoples, landowners, local business and industries considered by site managers to have 'poor understanding' of these procedures.

Local communities, and children and youth are the principal target audiences of existing educational programmes.

Indigenous peoples are considered target audiences only in 20% of cultural properties and 39% of natural properties, while this consideration is higher in mixed properties, reaching 50% (Figure 3.28).



**Figure 3.28** Target audiences of the education and awareness programmes

Guided tours, online information services, trails and routes, and visitor centre services are provided in most of the World Heritage properties, getting a rating of fair and good (Table 3.7). Visitor centres and site museums could be reinforced in the region.

**Table 3.7. Number of properties considering visitor services as fair and good**

Region/Subregion	Caribbean	Central America and Mexico	South America	Total
Guided tours	14	37	48	<b>99</b>
Online (website, social media, etc.)	13	34	48	<b>95</b>
Trails/routes	13	28	43	<b>84</b>
Visitor centre	11	27	42	<b>80</b>
Site museum	12	26	39	<b>77</b>
Printed information materials	11	25	35	<b>71</b>
Transportation facilities	7	27	29	<b>63</b>
Information booths	7	20	35	<b>62</b>
Other	3	5	6	<b>14</b>

### 3.9 Visitor management

From 2017 to 2021, almost 815 million (national and international) visited World Heritage properties in Latin America and the Caribbean. From one year to the next, the number of visitors increased between 2% and 14%, except from 2019 and 2020 when it decreased significantly by around 62% in natural and cultural properties, and by 90% in mixed properties. One of the reasons was the COVID-19 pandemic that seriously affected tourism activities worldwide.

The recovery in 2021 was positive in mixed and natural properties (75% and 28%, respectively compared to 2020), but is still negative in cultural properties (-6%). This recovery is not taking place homogeneously in all subregions. From 2020 to 2021, the visitors at World Heritage Properties in South America increased by 31%, while in Central America and Mexico, and the Caribbean, this is still decreasing (-30% and -23%, respectively).

Entry tickets are one of the main information sources to register visitor statistics. This tool was used in 73% of World Heritage properties, but entry tickets do not provide any further information to allow a detailed analysis and characterization, or to understand the motivation of visitors. Visitor surveys and tourism industries, probably more adequate tools for this, are being implemented in around 33% of the properties.

Regarding the average length of stay in the World Heritage properties, 56% of properties report that visitors do not overnight at the property (33% of site managers identify that visitors spent one to three hours, and 23% opted for the whole day). There are 7% of properties reporting that visitors that spend one overnight stay, 28% two nights and 9% more than four nights (mainly in natural properties).

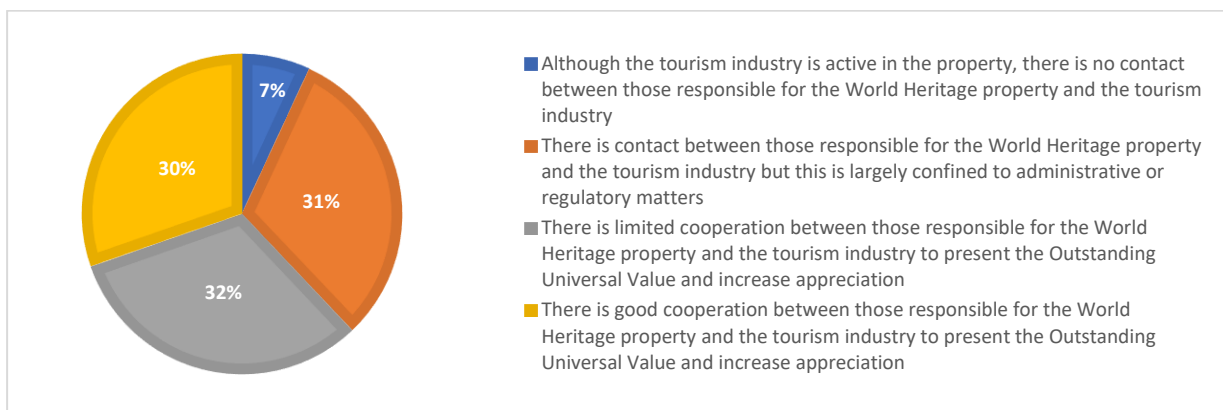
A strategy to manage visitors, tourism activity and its derived impacts on the World Heritage property is reported by 67 site managers (46%), but there are some deficiencies in implementation; 20% of the respondents identified the lack of any strategy to manage visitors and derived impacts (Figure 3.29).



**Figure 3.29.** World Heritage properties with an action plan to manage visitors

With 54% of the region having an active monitoring system, only 6% are based on the UNESCO Tourism Management Assessment Tool (none in natural properties), and 46% based on different systems.

Cooperation with the tourism industry is good in 30% of cases, limited at 32% of sites and reported as some kind of cooperation in another 31% of properties (Figure 3.30).



**Figure 3.30.** Cooperation between World Heritage managers and tourism industry

The presentation and interpretation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property was considered to be acceptable by 55% of participants, but improvements could be made. Almost 38% of the inscribed sites report that the World Heritage emblem is displayed at the property in many locations, and is easily visible to visitors.

The highest visitor expenditure is on lodging and transportation (US\$120 and US\$110 per visitor per day), then recreation fees, and food and beverages (US\$40 and US\$31), which mostly benefits the communities and private sector.

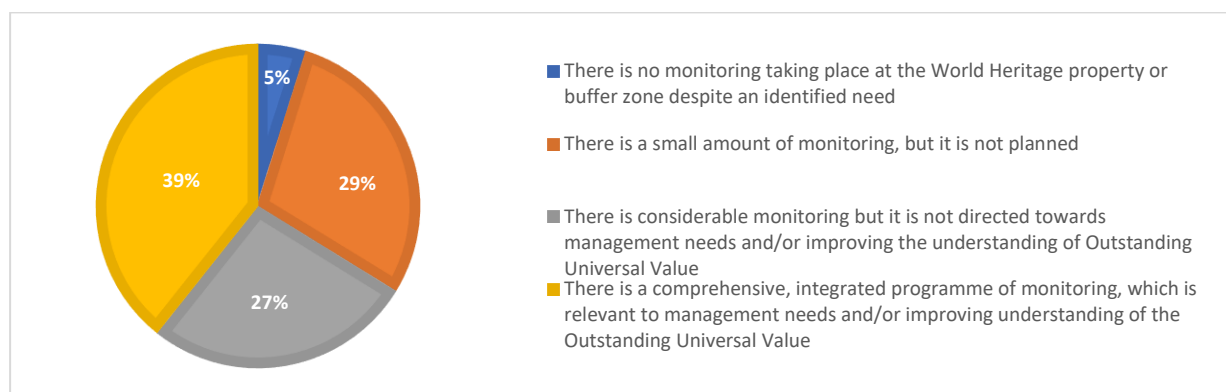
In most cases, admission fees are the main or the only benefit that goes directly to finance operative and management activities in the property. However, admission fees were reported as the lowest visitor expenditure (around US\$9 per person per day), and are a substantial contribution to the management of 19% of the properties of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Locally driven sustainable tourism initiatives were reported by 57% of participants, and benefits from tourism are shared with the community in 63% of cases.



### 3.10 Monitoring

The region has 39% of properties with a comprehensive, integrated programme to monitor management needs and/or the understanding of the Outstanding Universal Values. Only 5% of respondents reported no monitoring mechanisms; 68 site managers, the majority of the responses, considered that current monitoring indicators could be improved at their property. The state of conservation and effectiveness of the management system are the two main categories where the monitoring indicators are identified as adequate (Figure 3.31).



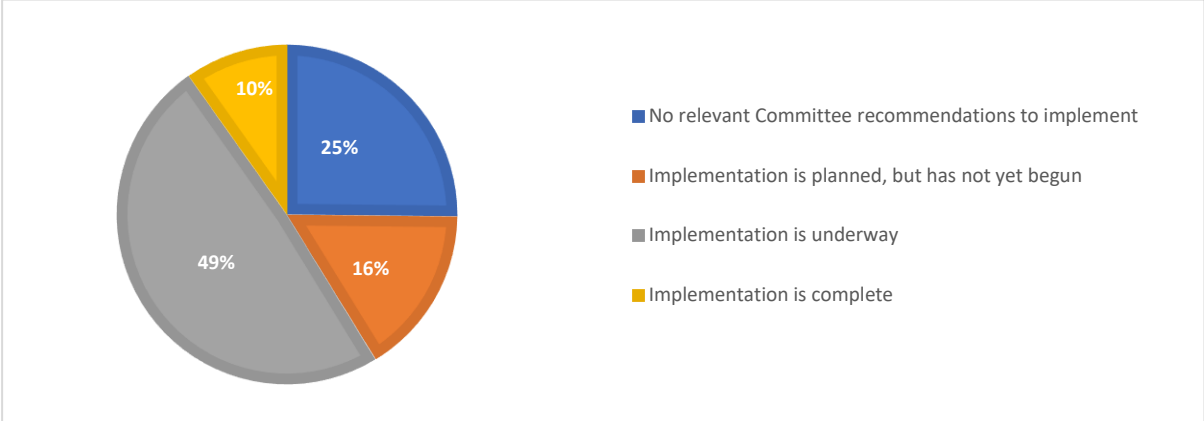
**Figure 3.31.** Existence of monitoring at property level

World Heritage staff, researchers, local authorities and local communities were reported as the stakeholders with more participation in the monitoring activities, but Indigenous peoples, landowners and local business industry are the least involved in these processes (Table 3.8).

**Table 3.8.** Level of involvement in monitoring of groups

Region/Subregion	Caribbean	Central America and Mexico	South America	Total
World Heritage managers/coordinators and staff	17	43	58	<b>118</b>
Researchers	12	38	47	<b>97</b>
Local/municipal authorities	10	22	38	<b>70</b>
Local communities	8	26	31	<b>65</b>
NGOs	10	21	30	<b>61</b>
Women	8	24	27	<b>59</b>
Tourism industry	6	19	31	<b>56</b>
Local businesses and industry	5	10	20	<b>35</b>
Landowners	5	11	15	<b>31</b>
Indigenous peoples	2	11	11	<b>24</b>
Other specific groups	2	6	7	<b>15</b>

States Parties are supposed to implement relevant recommendations arising from the World Heritage Committee and its decisions; 70 site managers (49%) confirmed that those recommendations were being implemented (Figure 3.32).



**Figure 3.32.** Implementation of relevant recommendations arising from the World Heritage Committee

**3.11 Identification of priority management needs**

This section, focused on the identification of priority management needs, highlights the differences between the three subregions. Of the top three categories chosen by the subregions, the most selected is the (in)adequacy of human resources for the protection and conservation of properties.

Caribbean SIDS countries focus their management needs on funding availability, strategies for managing visitors included in action plans and the need to improve the adequacy of human resources. Site managers of this subregion identified the economic limitations of being a small island negatively impacting the financial management of the properties in general. Visitor management could be also linked to the crucial relationship this subregion has with tourism as an economic factor.

Central America and Mexico identified human resources as their first priority, followed by educational programmes and the use of the Policy Document for Climate Change, with the same score in the second level.

South America also ranked human resources first, followed by the need for better coordination among institutions involved into heritage management and heritage education programmes, both with the same score (Table 3.9).

**Table 3.9. Priority management needs by subregion**

Subregion	First priority	Second priority	Third priority
<b>Caribbean</b>	Adequacy of current budget to manage the World Heritage property effectively	Existence of a strategy to manage visitors, tourism activity and its derived impacts on the World Heritage property but there are some deficiencies in implementation.	Human resources partly meet the management needs of the World Heritage property.

<b>Central America and Mexico</b>	Human resources partly meet the management needs of the World Heritage property.	Limited and ad hoc education and awareness programme for children and/or youth.  No use has been made of the World Heritage Policy for Climate Change.
<b>South America</b>	Human resources partly meet the management needs of the World Heritage property.	There is a planned education and awareness programme for children and/or youth but it only partly meets the needs.  There is coordination between the range of administrative bodies involved in the management of the property, but it could be improved.

**3.12 Summary and conclusions**

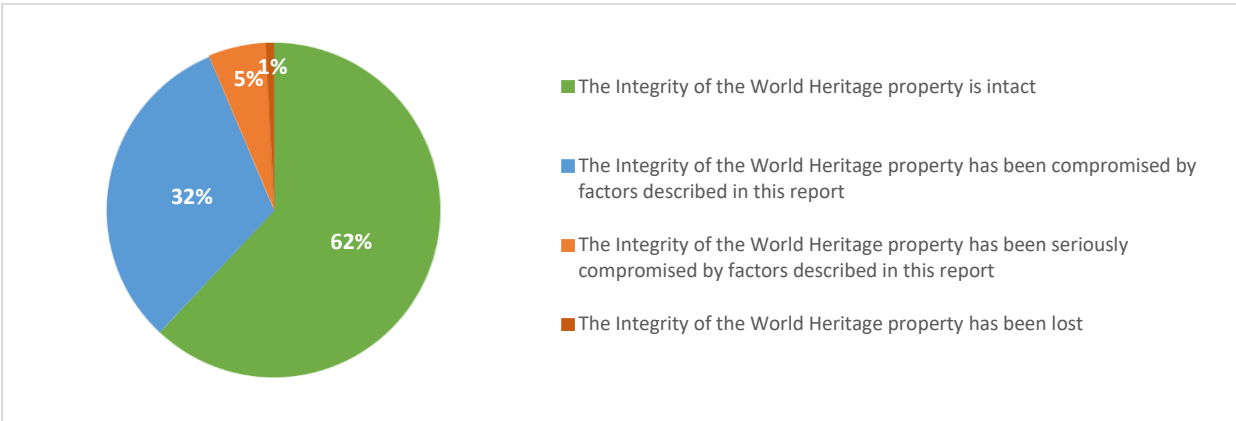
**3.12.1 Current state of authenticity**

Authenticity is not always a well-understood concept. As an example, 59% of site managers of natural properties evaluated the status of authenticity, although it applies only to cultural heritage properties. It is highly recommended to improve the understanding of this concept and its application.

Just one property, from Central America and Mexico, identified that the authenticity has been lost; two sites in South America and one in Central America and Mexico reported authenticity as seriously compromised.

**3.12.2 Current state of integrity**

Integrity is considered mostly intact in World Heritage properties of Latin America and the Caribbean (62%) (Figure 3.32), with some small differences among the three categories (in 75% of mixed, 63% of natural and 61% of cultural properties). For 32% of the properties, the integrity was reported as compromised, with quite similar results for all type of properties; 5% of the inscribed sites in the region reported that their integrity was seriously compromised, all of which were natural and cultural properties, since no mixed sites were reported as seriously compromised (Figure 3.33). The integrity of the World Heritage property has been reported as lost only in one property located in South America.



**Figure 3.33.** Integrity of World Heritage properties

### 3.12.3 Current state of Outstanding Universal Values

In Latin America and the Caribbean, 75% of site managers considered that the World Heritage property's Outstanding Universal Value has been maintained, offering a very positive response from the region; 19% of properties have been impacted but threats are being addressed (Figure 3.34).

Outstanding Universal Values are maintained in 76% of cultural, 74% of natural and 63% of mixed properties, but in the mixed properties there are more effective management actions implemented to address the factors previously identified.

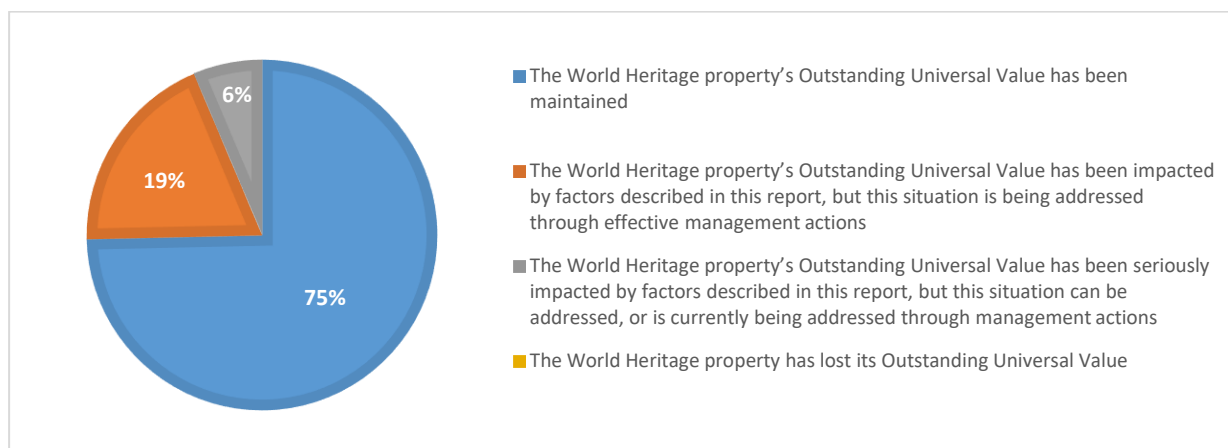


Figure 3.34. Current state of the Outstanding Universal Value

### 3.12.4 Current state of other values at the properties

In addition to the Outstanding Universal Values, World Heritage properties also include other important cultural and natural values. In 42% of the properties, these values are intact, and in 48% are being partially degraded but the state of conservation of the property has not been significantly impacted.

## 3.13 Impacts of World Heritage status

Conservation, recognition, and research and monitoring are recognized as the main areas of very positive influence in the World Heritage status. Conservation is considered very positive for 47% of site managers and positive for 43%; recognition is very positive for 34% and positive for 52%; and research and monitoring very positive for 30% and positive for 56%. The legal and policy framework closely follows the previous impacts of an inscription.

Funding of the property is not considered as an aspect impacted by the inscription of a property on the World Heritage List. Site managers consider that an inscription does not impact on infrastructure and development, provisions of ecosystem services or preventing conflict. The quality of life for local communities and Indigenous peoples does not seem to be clearly impacted by such an inscription.

The least perceived impact is gender: 39% of site managers considered that gender equality has no impact on the World Heritage status, and 36% that its impact is positive (Table 3.10).

**Table 3.10. Impacts of World Heritage status**

Region/Subregion	Caribbean	Central America and Mexico	South America	Total
Conservation	18	46	67	<b>131</b>
Recognition	18	41	66	<b>125</b>
Research and monitoring	18	41	65	<b>124</b>
Legal/Policy framework	18	42	60	<b>120</b>
Institutional coordination	16	42	60	<b>118</b>
Management effectiveness	16	42	58	<b>116</b>
Education	18	37	53	<b>108</b>
Fostering inclusive local economic development and enhancing livelihood	15	33	48	<b>96</b>
International cooperation	15	35	44	<b>94</b>
Security	14	34	46	<b>94</b>
Social inclusion and equity, and improvement of opportunities for all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status	12	33	47	<b>92</b>
Political support for conservation	16	33	42	<b>91</b>
Quality of life for local communities and Indigenous peoples	10	32	46	<b>88</b>
Funding for the property	13	30	39	<b>82</b>
Contributing to conflict prevention, including respect for cultural diversity within and around heritage properties	11	29	42	<b>82</b>
Advocacy	15	32	34	<b>81</b>
Provision of ecosystem services/benefits to local communities	14	26	40	<b>80</b>
Infrastructure development	11	25	43	<b>79</b>
Gender equality	12	25	29	<b>66</b>
Other	2	7	5	<b>14</b>

### 3.14 Good practices in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention

Reported examples of good practices in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention are mainly on the state of conservation and management in all subregions. In addition, actions on sustainable development are also prioritized in natural properties, as well as governance in cultural properties. Good practices in governance are the first priority for mixed properties.

Capacity-building is the least provided example in natural, cultural and mixed sites.

Some examples considered by participants as demonstrating outstanding implementation of the World Heritage Convention are:

- *Improving social participation and capacity-building*

The participation of local communities and Indigenous peoples is being implemented as a key factor to improve the management and protection of World Heritage. In this regard, some successful cases are being developed in the Blue and John Crow Mountains (Jamaica), Morne Trois Pitons Management Area (Dominica), Talamanca Range-La Amistad Reserves/La Amistad National Park (Costa Rica and Panama), National History Park-Citadel, Sans Souci Ramiers (Haiti), Pitons Management Area (Saint Lucia), Río Abiseo National Park (Peru), Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (Mexico), Rapa Nui National Park (Chile) and in the Gran Pajatén Biosphere Reserve Río Abiseo National Park (Peru).

- *Synergies and connectivity*

The CMAR Transboundary Marine Biosphere Reserve is mentioned as one of the globally recognized experiences in inter-governmental coordination and ecosystem connectivity beyond political boundaries. This strategy connects natural World Heritage sites from Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Panama.

Training related to marking protected heritage with the Blue Shield emblem established under the 1954 Hague Convention generates knowledge about the purposes pursued in this Convention. However, World Heritage properties are not designated under the 1954 Hague Convention.

- *Reducing risks and impacts*

Forest fires in natural and mixed World Heritage sites are directly linked to climate change and the increased pressure for land change. The Forest Fires Annual Prevention Plan Tikal National Park (Guatemala) is one of the most successful examples of its prevention and management.

Península Valdés (Argentina) reported an interesting strategy to avoid impacts on marine mammals by aquatic transportation sectors. Following a participatory process, the communities, entities, scientists and private sector, developed a Code of Ethics for the passenger transport service for sightseeing of marine mammals in the Golfo Nuevo.

- *Achieving sustainable development objectives*

Old Havana and its Fortification System (Cuba) developed a special comprehensive development plan to promote sustainability based on five pillars: institutional, cultural, social, economic, and environmental. Cuba has also established a framework for inclusive development in the Urban Historic Centre of Cienfuegos.

The managers of the Jesuit Missions of La Santísima Trinidad de Paraná and Jesús de Tavarangue (Paraguay) promote participation on the Sustainable Development Plan.

- *Facilitating good governance*

Another example of good governance and livelihoods is offered by Sian Ka'an (Mexico). The fishing cooperatives established in this World Heritage Site are recognized worldwide for conducting sustainable lobster fishing.

Sourcing of federal and local authorities, and also existing government programmes, focused on the protection and reduction of violation of certain collective rights, at the property of Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Congonhas (Brazil).

- *Establishing conservation agreements*

Authorities from the mixed World Heritage site of Chiribiquete National Park – The Maloca of the Jaguar (Colombia) – obtained crucial conservation agreements with the communities and Indigenous peoples to guarantee the establishment of the buffer zone around the property and its protection.

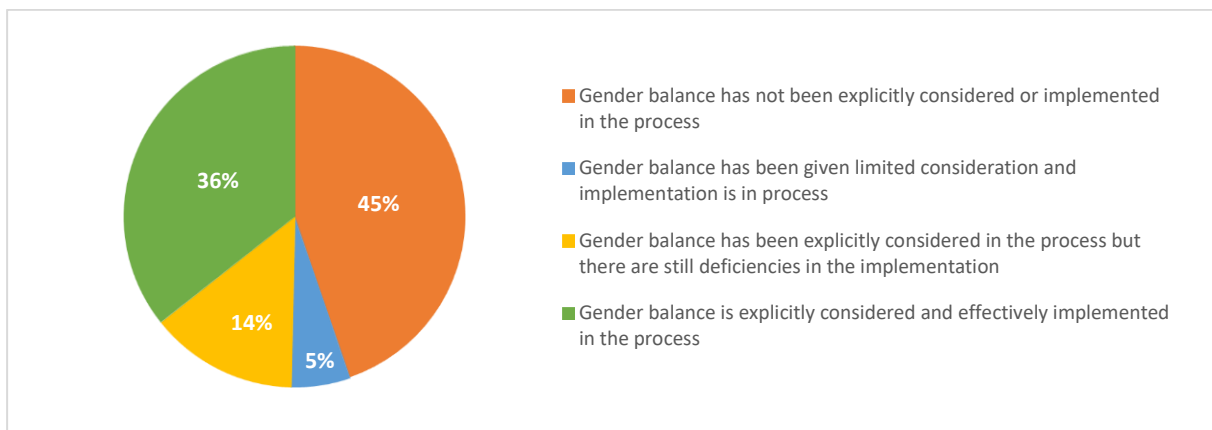
The Joya de Cerén Archaeological Site (El Salvador) is implementing and funding a strategy to conserve and undertake scientific research to restore and protect the authenticity of the property.

### 3.15 Assessment of the Third Cycle Periodic Reporting exercise

People involved in the completion of the questionnaire for this Third Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise were primarily World Heritage property level staff, and secondarily governmental institutions responsible for cultural and natural heritage. This process contributed to improving and systematizing site-level information on World Heritage processes, Outstanding Universal Values, authenticity and integrity concepts, management and monitoring priorities.

Authorities in charge of the management of the property considered that the collected data would be useful for the revision of priorities and strategies at site level in 94.5% of the sites; 78% of participants will use the data to update management plans.

Regarding the implementation of gender balance, 45% of site managers reported that gender was not considered in filling out this questionnaire, and in 36% cases gender balance was explicitly considered and effectively implemented (Figure 3.35). Managers mentioned that personnel are hired according to their qualifications and experience versus considerations of gender.



**Figure 3.35.** Gender balance considered in the filling out of this questionnaire

The questionnaire was considered easy or very easy to use in 83% of cases, and the questions considered as clear by 68% of participants.

Training opportunities and guidance from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre is the most considered option for training, selected by 103 out of 145 site managers. But the level of support for completing the Periodic Reporting questionnaire is clearly focused on the help received from the national Focal Points, with 113 positive responses.

Key opinions and recommendations were shared by site managers with the aim of improving subsequent reports. For example, site managers considered the deadline given to fill the

questionnaire was not sufficient to gather the information and ensure a participatory process. They spent an average of 44.5 hours per person filling in the questionnaire (5.5 working days of 8 hours), and 42.5 hours gathering data (5.2 working days of 8 hours), even though in most cases, the information was available. In general, the time available was around one month. Extending the deadline and allowing the information to be delivered in parts are two of the main recommendations.

Regarding the questionnaire, site managers highlighted that the response choices do not always include specific options for serial sites and/or mixed properties. In addition, some site managers suggested reviewing, adapting and reducing the number of questions, avoiding some repetitions. The inclusion of a 'not applicable' option was also recommended.

Other recommendations for the questionnaires were to include a section to upload additional evidence such as maps, lists, databases, reports, publications and others.

Additionally, the questionnaire should be downloadable to fill in without an internet connection, since internet access in many sites is not always available or stable.

For non-English speaking States Parties, there was a significant challenge in completing the questionnaire in English and/or French for many site managers involved in this process. Some technical terms led to diverse interpretations. One of the strongest recommendations is to allow the questionnaire to be sent in different languages.

Regarding training needs, the main recommendations were to improve the participation of ICOMOS and IUCN in training sessions; facilitate training with videos in workshops to help generate a new cadre of World Heritage experts; and have these sessions adapted to different languages.

### **3.16 Conclusions on Section II**

State Parties and site managers have made significant progress on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention since the Second Cycle to date, including the inscription of new properties on the World Heritage List, notably regarding the increased number of mixed sites. The development of transboundary large serial sites is another great achievement.

The conservation status of attributes and Outstanding Universal Values are considered mostly adequate but there are still some needs and gaps to be addressed urgently to ensure its sustainability.

Special attention should be given to the buffer zones of World Heritage properties. This area is the most vulnerable due to the gaps on the implementation of legal frameworks to protect heritage. Human activities and development are mainly taking place in the buffer zone, so it is highly recommended to also target education and awareness programmes in this area. World Heritage properties in the urban context require careful monitoring because of development encroachment, especially in the buffer zone, and the impact of unregulated improvements.

Management of World Heritage sites is being identified as one of the main positive factors, with the management plan as the main tool for implementation. However, there are still some gaps regarding effective management and conservation in the buffer zones.

Mixed sites are showing great results in protecting the Outstanding Universal Values, and this is seen as an opportunity to strengthen alliances with other UNESCO Conventions such as Man and the Biosphere Reserves, especially for the Caribbean.



One of the most important opportunities for the region is the improvement of coordination between site managers and other international convention Focal Points (Man and the Biosphere Reserves, Ramsar Convention, UNESCO Geoparks, or UNESCO Cultural Conventions), and local stakeholders (mainly Indigenous peoples, local communities and the private sector).

Even though the site managers considered the importance of a participatory approach in the designation and implementation of public management systems, the low effective participation of Indigenous peoples, landowners, private sector and NGOs is widely recognized.

UNESCO's technical guides, recommendations, strategies for capacity-building and policy frameworks for World Heritage management have not been fully implemented as expected.

As one outcome of the Periodic Reporting process and its training in the region, site managers identified the need to encourage long-term planning for capacity-building by the World Heritage Centre.

The available budgets are not fully adequate for the protection of heritage, and most of the current financial sources are not guaranteed in the long term. This seriously affects the continuity and sustainability of management activities and human resources.

Local communities and the private sector are the main beneficiaries of the economic benefits of the World Heritage sites. A minimal percentage of the economic benefits of visitors and tourism activities go directly to support management and conservation at property level. The need to improve coordination between local authorities and private sectors is one of the conclusions.

Site managers recognized the need for enhanced visitor and tourism management strategies at World Heritage property level and wished to improve capacity to undertake scientific methodologies for planning and reporting procedures.

## **4. MONITORING INDICATORS FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION**

### **4.1 Methodology**

The World Heritage Committee agreed at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017) to include Monitoring Indicators to gauge the level of effective observance by States Parties of the Convention and of the 1972 Recommendation as recorded in the Periodic Report.

The indicators are related to many different questions from the questionnaires in the Periodic Report, obtained in many formats, so all the results are presented in tabular form appropriate to each question in Annex III, and with brief narrative commentary.

The focus is on the percentage difference obtained when comparing the Indicators from the Second to the Third Cycle, in order to identify trends in the period, as well as improvements or situations that have worsened. The results are also provided by subregions, enabling an exhaustive analysis. This summary includes the most outstanding issues that show significant changes or allow us to better understand the evolution of the region.

This analysis also considered that the number of World Heritage properties has increased by 18, from 124 to 142, coming from both Central America and Mexico, and South America. South America has five properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger, the highest number in the region.

### **4.2 Main results**

- State of conservation of the properties

With regard to the evolution of the percentage of properties reporting that the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of their properties is maintained, it is clear that responses show significant differences by subregions: there is a significant fall in the percentage for South America compared with a slight increase in the other two subregions. By contrast, the percentage of properties where impact is being addressed has risen slightly in South America but fallen in the other two subregions. This may suggest that while there has been a slippage in the maintenance of OUV in South America, real efforts are being made to address this, whereas especially in the Caribbean, although OUV has been maintained, there has been a significant rise in impact that needs to be addressed.

Overall, the number of negative factors affecting the properties show quite similar results between the two Cycles. The Caribbean, being all SIDS countries, shows a 12% rise in negative factors for mixed properties, but this is because no mixed properties were registered at the time of the Second Cycle. Seemingly, mixed properties also show a large increase in positive factors for the Caribbean.

Regarding the number of properties reporting their integrity is intact, subregional differences appear. In South America, the current number of properties with integrity intact increased from 42 to 46, but this subregion reported 4 more properties with their integrity seriously compromised. In Central America and Mexico, there were no seriously compromised properties in the Second Cycle compared with three in the Third Cycle, but a large drop in properties with compromised integrity resulted in a significant rise in properties with intact integrity. In the Caribbean, the number of properties stayed the same between cycles, but one more property was maintained with intact integrity.

Overall, between the two cycles, the percentage of properties reporting that their authenticity is preserved has increased from 68.5% to 72.5%. At the subregional level, there has been some increase in the number of properties with authenticity preserved in South America, Central

America and Mexico. This change is, however, probably influenced by the overall increase in properties in these two subregions.

- Management

Across the subregions, the percentage of properties with management systems and/or management varies from 80% in South America to 95% in the Caribbean. There is an overall improvement between the Second and Third Cycles that is largely attributable to an increased positive response in Central America and Mexico and South America, with little change in the Caribbean.

The proportion of properties with adequate coordination between all bodies/levels has increased overall from the Second to Third Cycle from 15.3% to 20%. The increase has been particularly significant for the Caribbean, with some progress in Central America and Mexico.

In monitoring, the number of properties with a formal monitoring programme has increased overall from the Second to Third Cycle relatively consistently, by 10–13 percentage points across each of the subregions.

Management activities as a factor are increasingly having a positive impact across the region, with the greatest increase reported in the Caribbean.

In almost all properties in the region, actions were being taken to address priority management needs during the Third Cycle. This seems to be an improvement on the Second Cycle for the Caribbean and Central America and Mexico. In South America, the number of properties where action was taken increased between cycles, but since there was also an overall rise in the number of properties listed, the result was an insignificant fall in the proportion of properties affected. There is a great improvement in the number of properties taking actions to address priority management needs in the Periodic Reporting questionnaire, from 88% to 96%. Central America and Mexico has all of its priority management needs addressed. Even in South America, where a small drop occurred, the current number of properties taking actions on priority needs has increased.

- Governance

The Caribbean saw an overall increase in the number of States Parties considering that their legal frameworks were adequate, while the responses from the other two subregions remained substantially the same.

Overall, cooperation remains low in relation to effective cooperation mechanisms between stakeholders. Only under 'principal agencies/institutions' is there any significant level of reporting.

Overall, the large majority of properties do feel that roles and responsibilities are clearly defined in the management system, but this has declined significantly in Central America and Mexico. The Caribbean gave a more positive response than in the previous cycle.

- Sustainable development

Since the Second Cycle, there has been a small decrease in the number of properties reporting that tourism benefits are shared with local communities. However, this change is only 12

properties in each subregion – less than the overall rise in the number of properties between cycles – and so not very significant.

Almost all properties in the region reported a formal framework for community participation in the Third Cycle, compared with a slightly lower proportion in the previous cycle. This has taken place even where the number of properties included has increased, showing that communities are involved in newly designated properties. It is interesting to compare this with the response showing that less than half of States Parties in the region reported a gender-balanced participation in the World Heritage process, as well as the relatively lower participation of Indigenous groups. This may indicate that some specific groups are not still properly integrated and/or considered in the management of heritage.

The percentage of properties where the authorities and the local communities are aware of the boundaries has increased from 50% to 65% for the Caribbean.

Buffer zones continue to be less well known than property boundaries, but the knowledge has increased between cycles.

- Capacity development

Between the Second and Third Cycle, there has been a drop in the percentage of properties having capacity-development plans, from 74% to 60% during the intervening years. In the Caribbean and South America, the number of properties responding positively has remained almost the same, suggesting that new properties since the Second Cycle have not instituted capacity-building work. On the other hand, there has been a real and significant decline in Central America and Mexico.

The results of the Periodic Reporting Monitoring Indicators for the Latin America and the Caribbean region in the framework of the Third Cycle are available at: <https://whc.unesco.org/document/200435>.

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

## 5. CONCLUSION

The Periodic Reporting exercise is one of the key monitoring processes under the World Heritage Convention, in the sense that it widely involves both national Focal Points and site managers in a common reflection. While it is evident that the self-reporting nature of the exercise may also imply a degree of subjectivity, the exercise also allows participants to fully engage in the follow-up of the site and seize the opportunities offered by a good monitoring system.

The results set forth herein show that Latin American and Caribbean States Parties, and their designated national Focal Points and site managers at property level, have a good knowledge of the Convention. Their national regulatory frameworks and policies promote heritage conservation, while integrating some of the Sustainable Development Goals.

However, the improvement of various identified gaps and reinforcement of some strategic areas could clearly have a very positive impact in the coming years. Management actions are considered as a positive factor, together with social and cultural uses of heritage, offering a clear way forward to reinforce existing good practices. Emerging threats and identified needs, such as risk preparedness, adaptation to climate change and better inclusion of heritage into wider policies, will require more strategic action in the next years. Strengthened monitoring mechanisms can offer great benefits in the region as can more inclusive management of the sites and stronger community engagement.

The Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise in the Latin America and the Caribbean region has been generally well received by States Parties. Although the questionnaire was rated as being easy to use, it was rated slightly lower in terms of clarity, with some participants finding it lengthy or redundant for some questions. Suggestions were provided on the need for further clarifications and training on using the questionnaire, as well as with regard to simplifying it and offering it in the Spanish language.

As a self-reporting mechanism, Periodic Reporting has succeeded in providing an overall view of the implementation of the Convention in the Region, with insights into the conservation and management of World Heritage properties. To a certain extent, therefore, Periodic Reporting has fulfilled its main purpose of providing an assessment of the application of the Convention, as well as an assessment concerning whether the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage properties is being maintained over time. Moreover, information has also been updated about the World Heritage properties, while the process itself has provided a platform for the exchange of information and experiences among States Parties concerning the implementation of the Convention.

Monitoring Indicators have been included in the Report for the first time to measure the level of implementation of the World Heritage Convention and the 1972 Recommendation concerning the Protection, at the National level, of the Cultural and Natural Heritage. For some questions, it has been feasible to measure change since the Second Cycle, while for several others, this has not been possible due to the newly introduced areas, and changes made to the questions themselves. Nevertheless, the Monitoring Indicators form a baseline to measure future progress and improvements in the implementation of the Convention.

The priorities identified through this Periodic Reporting exercise are outlined as the Strategic Objectives in the Regional Action Plan. Among priorities highlighted are the specific need for improved management plans as well as the active involvement of local communities, Indigenous peoples and the various stakeholders in management of sites. Strengthening conservation

capacities, integrating diverse knowledge systems, enhancing gender balance in decision-making, and enabling sustainable livelihoods are identified among the key strategies to achieving sustainable tourism, effective governance, and a balanced stakeholder integration. As reflected in the Action Plan, building on and continuing these and other priorities will contribute to the long-term preservation of World Heritage properties in Latin America and the Caribbean for the next 50 years and beyond.

## **PART II. FRAMEWORK ACTION PLAN AND PROCESS**

### **6. FRAMEWORK ACTION PLAN FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN REGION**

#### **6.1 Approach and elaboration**

The draft framework Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean has been developed on the basis of the outcomes of the contributions gathered from a series of consultations made with different stakeholders, including the World Heritage site managers, national Focal Points, the Advisory Bodies and heritage experts from the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

Those contributions were formulated during the consultation meetings held on 10 and 15–16 February 2023, where the draft results of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting were presented and specific groups created to promote a fruitful dialogue among participants. Those contributions, together with the conclusions and results from the questionnaires submitted by the region through the online Periodic Reporting exercise, form the baseline for the construction of the draft Action Plan. The draft Action Plan is intended to be comprehensive and inclusive, so as to clearly reflect subregional needs, priorities and objectives, and to foresee gender-balanced participation, based on the informed and prior consent of communities and Indigenous peoples.

#### **6.2 Vision**

Participants in Latin America and the Caribbean considered the importance of regional cooperation and mutual support, capacity-building and monitoring as key basic methodologies for the reinforcement of the current conservation status of World Heritage properties in the region, and the further promotion of a more significant and diverse representation on the World Heritage List.

This vision will be supported by 38 actions listed along with the five Strategic Objectives based on the five 'Cs'. While such actions are meant to cover the totality of the needs expressed at regional level, their prioritization is not determined in the draft Action Plan, so that the hierarchy of its objectives and actions can be established at the implementation level in light of the environmental, cultural, social and economic subregional context in Central America and Mexico, South America and the Caribbean, respectively.

The five Strategic Objectives set out in the proposed draft Action Plan are as follows:

1. Strengthen the representability and credibility of the Latin America and the Caribbean diverse heritage in the World Heritage List
2. Reinforce effective management for the conservation and promotion of World Heritage in the region
3. Develop and implement capacity-building for innovative approaches to conservation, management and promotion of World Heritage
4. Enhance the use of heritage education, communication and awareness-raising formulas for the protection of World Heritage
5. Reinforce community, gender-balanced participation and stakeholder engagement for effective management of World Heritage properties.

The priorities and key actions identified in the Third Cycle Periodic Reporting Action Plan align with the Declaration unanimously adopted at the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development – MONDIACULT 2022 (Mexico City, 2022) and the reflections undertaken at the international conference ‘The Next 50 - The Future of World Heritage in Challenging Times, Enhancing Resilience and Sustainability’ (Delphi, November 2022) and the monitoring process will also cover the overlapping goals shared by these key strategic documents.

### **6.3 Implementation strategy and appropriation of the Action Plan by States Parties**

This Third Periodic Reporting Framework Action Plan (2023–2029) for the Latin America and the Caribbean region is foreseen to reinforce existing good practices in the region, while identifying gaps, both regional and subregional, where reinforcement and further work is required. The proposed Action Plan clearly addresses the five key strategic objectives of the World Heritage Convention, tailored to the specific needs of the region and the subregions, while also considering a more holistic approach, related to wider policies on sustainable development. Therefore, the core lines of the Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals, and the Policy for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention are also considered, as well as the strategic lines of the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action – SAMOA Pathway, the UNESCO policy on engagement with Indigenous peoples, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This assumes that the conservation of World Heritage properties has the potential to reinforce local sustainable development processes and provide better opportunities for the communities around the sites.

This overall Action Plan would need to translate to the implementation of National Action Plans in each of the 33 countries participating in the Periodic Reporting exercise. The State Party-driven process would then be accomplished for the identification and defining phase. Multilateral and subregional implementation frameworks can also be established by the States Parties, with the support of UNESCO as appropriate, following specific needs and capacities, to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Action Plan.

The full implementation of the identified objectives can only be realized through the cooperation of different stakeholders and countries, working at regional and subregional level. A key role can be played by States Parties, national Focal Points, site managers, Category 2 Centres, the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee, universities, UNESCO Chairs in particular, the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO Field Offices, and non-governmental and civil society organizations. A special focus should be given when updating and creating site-level Integrated Management and Conservation Plans, to be able to integrate these priorities into current management instruments. This Action Plan is therefore conceived to be appropriated and customized by the real actors and stakeholders in the field, to become a living, useful tool in the daily management of the World Heritage properties.

During the first step in its implementation, the framework Action Plan will be made available to download on the World Heritage Centre’s website (<https://whc.unesco.org/en/lac/>). The Latin America and the Caribbean region Action Plan will be widely disseminated after its presentation and approval by the World Heritage Committee in 2023. This will involve the following actions:



- The Secretariat and States Parties will collaborate, based on resource availability, to ensure the translation of the Action Plan into the languages of the region and the dissemination of the Final Regional Report, the adopted Action Plan, as well as the related World Heritage Committee's Decision, to stakeholders at the national level.
- The World Heritage Centre will publish the results of the Third Periodic Report in the Latin America and the Caribbean region in the World Heritage Paper Series, provided necessary financial situation permits. States Parties are welcome to contribute financially for this purpose.
- The World Heritage Centre will organize later in 2023 an online meeting with national Focal Points for the Latin America and the Caribbean region to discuss the implementation of the regional Action Plan.
- The Secretariat and States Parties will monitor the implementation of the regional Action Plan and present a mid-cycle assessment report to the World Heritage Committee.

#### **6.4 Monitoring process**

In order to monitor the progress accomplished by the implementation of this Action Plan across the region, the World Heritage Centre proposes to carry out a mid-cycle review in the form of a very short and easy survey. In response to the proposal of appropriation of the instrument, national Focal Points would identify the prioritization of the actions, reconfirming the use and inclusion of those actions into their National Action Plans. Therefore, the evaluation and mid-cycle review would be done based on each country's priorities and plans, reinforcing the State Party-driven process.

During the years of the implementation of the Action Plan, continuous coordination among national Focal Points and site managers would be useful, both at national and at subregional and regional levels. Cooperation and exchange opportunities will reinforce the shared values and synergies and provide a better platform for collaboration and support.

6.5 Framework Draft Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean (2023–2029)

Strategic Objective – 1 Strengthen the representativity and credibility of the Latin America and the Caribbean diverse heritage in the World Heritage List							
Expected Results (ER)	Actions/Activities	Approach	Lead partner(s)/ Responsibility	2023–2025	2026–2027	2028–2029	Performance indicator(s)
<p><b>ER 1.1</b> <b>Tentative Lists updated and enriched, aiming at improving the representability of diverse Latin America and the Caribbean heritage on the UNESCO World Heritage List</b></p>	<p>1. Conduct thematic studies and gap analyses to be considered in the development of the updated Tentative Lists and nominations in the region, contributing to increasing typological representation and balance, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modern heritage and industrial heritage</li> <li>• Cultural landscapes and mixed sites</li> <li>• Natural heritage, including natural heritage related to marine areas</li> </ul>	<p>By working with ABs, training institutions and research centres</p>	<p>ABs</p> <p>States Parties WHC C2C</p>	●	●	●	<p>By 2029, at least:</p> <p>i) Three thematic studies reflecting subregional specificities are prepared and disseminated tentatively on modern heritage, industrial heritage and marine areas</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (Thematic studies)</p> <p>ii) Two updated gap analyses are conducted in the region</p> <p>Baseline: 0 (Gap analysis)</p>

	2. Conduct gender-balanced training to review the Tentative Lists of the countries in the region, with the aim of increasing typological representation and balance	By working through coordination activities and shared training sessions	States Parties WHC  ABs C2C		● ●	By 2029, at least three subregional training meetings are implemented  Baseline: 0 (Training meetings focused on diverse Tentative Lists)
	3. Promote integration of regional characteristics into Tentative Lists, specially focused on the recognition, inclusion and prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples' heritage	By working with ABs, training institutions and research centres	States Parties WHC  ABs	● ●		By 2029, at least one study regarding further recognition of Indigenous heritage and the visibility of indigenous approaches into existing WH properties  Baseline: 0 (Study on Indigenous heritage)
	4. Promote the Upstream Process for the revision of Tentative Lists and the completion of quality nominations, and assist States Parties to develop credible nomination dossiers in view of improving the representability of the World Heritage List	By working with WHC and ABs, in coordination with national Focal Points	States Parties WHC ABs	● ● ●		By 2029, at least 12 countries, based on subregional needs, have benefited from the Upstream Process  Baseline: 8 (Countries)
<b>ER 1.2 Reinforce Tentative Lists as instruments for cooperation</b>	5. Promote the identification of transboundary and transnational heritage, as well as the potential of Tentative Lists for dialogue among countries and improving cooperation opportunities	By working with States Parties, ABs, C2Cs, and strengthening existing cooperation formulas among national representatives	States Parties WHC Abs C2C Training institutions/centres/ universities		●	By 2029, at least one regional meeting and three subregional meetings aiming at the identification of potential transnational sites

							Baseline: 0 (Coordination meeting)
	6. Encourage integration of Conventions and programmes with regard to the identification of heritage and update of the Tentative Lists (Ramsar, MaB, 2003 Convention, 2001 Convention, etc.)	By working with WHC and ABs, in coordination with national Focal Points and other conventions' coordinators	States Parties WHC ABs			●	By 2027, at least one regional meeting and three subregional meetings aiming at the identification of better integration and cooperation with other programmes  Baseline: 0 (Coordination meeting)
<b>ER 1.3 National inventories updated to reflect the diversity of heritage, following gap analysis and regional cooperation</b>	7. Reinforce the existing national inventories based on gap analyses and thematic studies, as well as exchange meetings	Through regular communication with States Parties  Through national and regional field workshops	States Parties  WHC ABs Training institutions/ research centres			●	By 2029, at least 26 countries from all subregions have a cultural heritage inventory and 23 have a natural heritage inventory  Baseline: 22 countries with cultural inventories and 19 with natural
<b>Strategic objective – 2</b> <b>Reinforce effective management for the conservation and promotion of World Heritage in the region</b>							
<b>Expected Results (ER)</b>	<b>Actions/ Activities</b>	<b>Approach</b>	<b>Lead partner(s)/ Responsibility</b>	<b>2023–2025</b>	<b>2026–2027</b>	<b>2028–2029</b>	<b>Performance indicator(s)</b>

<b>ER 2.1 Conservation of World Heritage properties is improved through effective management, protection and adequate monitoring in line with the sustainable development</b>	<b>8.</b> Establish baselines based on OUV to enable assessment and regular monitoring of site management and key conservation factors	By making use of updated data from Periodic Reporting, monitoring indicators, cultural indicators and state of conservation	States Parties  WHC ABs	● ●	By 2029, at least: i) 60% of States Parties have developed a database with defined indicators, in their management plans and strategies  Baseline: TBC  ii) One guiding proposal developed for the monitoring of sites in the region  Baseline: 0
	<b>9.</b> Set up monitoring and self-evaluation systems on conservation, protection and management effectiveness i) Mid-cycle and end-of-cycle monitoring survey	By developing a monitoring and evaluation mechanism	States Parties  WHC ABs	● ● ●	By 2029, at least 60% use monitoring and evaluation tools, resulting from end-of-cycle monitoring survey  Baseline: 0
	<b>10.</b> Focus on buffer zone protection, including: i) Creation of tools to identify the key factors in those areas ii) Strengthen legal framework on the protection and use of the buffer zones	By promoting shared knowledge on current good experiences and creating guidelines for the region, adapted to heritage typology	States Parties  WHC ABs Site managers Stakeholders	● ● ●	By 2029: i) A guideline for the region, with specific focus on each subregion, is created on effective management of buffer zones,

	iii) Develop stakeholder integration mechanisms for effective management						<p>including legal framework and community gender-balanced participation.</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>ii) Good practices are identified and shared in a meeting.</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>iii) At least six properties develop a buffer zone-specific management document/tool.</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p>
	11. Cooperation for more effective management of sites and of serial sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List	Promotion of national Focal Points regular communication and by developing useful management and monitoring mechanisms	States Parties WHC Site managers	●	●		<p>By 2027:</p> <p>i) Two regional meetings aiming at sharing knowledge and innovative construction of solutions</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p>ii) 80% of national Focal Points responsible for large serial properties consider that there is a more</p>

							effective management Baseline: 0
	12. State Parties allow managers permission to secure grants for a state-owned vehicle which is suitable for traversing the rugged terrain of the World Heritage site						
<b>ER 2.2 Strengthen legal framework and inclusion of World Heritage into larger policies</b>	13. Encourage integration of other conventions and recommendations to facilitate effective management and conservation of heritage properties, by developing:  i) Cooperation and exchanges with other international and UNESCO convention/programme coordinators for effective governance and protection  ii) Guidelines for properties in accordance with the principles of UNESCO's 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL), especially in urban sites and cultural landscapes	Regular communication with States Parties and international convention coordinators, by strengthening stakeholder communication and by the promotion of tailored solutions for national implementation	States Parties National Focal Points  ABs WHC C2C Involved ministries at national level Other international convention coordinators	●	●	●	By 2029, at least:  i) Five cooperation inter-convention plans are developed Baseline: 0  ii) 60 properties identify some or full implementation of HUL guidelines  Baseline: 47 (PR)
	14. Promote better incorporation of heritage into wider national policies, with a special focus on the integration of heritage into sustainable development, social inclusion and climate change and risk preparedness policies	Regular communication with States Parties and diverse ministries, through better knowledge and understanding	States Parties National Focal Points  ABs WHC Involved ministries at national level		●	●	By 2029, at least six guideline documents for the integration of heritage into wider climate change policies  Baseline: 3 <a href="https://whc.unesco.org/en/climatechange">https://whc.unesco.org/en/climatechange</a>

	<p>15. Integrate UNESCO World Heritage into national planning strategies and development of National Heritage Action Plans to enhance synergies among national development agencies, including through increased institutional coordination at the national level</p>	<p>Regular communication with States Parties to support the adoption of sustainable development perspectives</p>	<p>States Parties National Focal Points</p> <p>ABs WHC</p>	●	●	●	<p>By 2029, at least 10 States Parties have an established mechanism (preferably national legislation) to integrate World Heritage in the national planning</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p>
	<p>16. Management strategies that recognize the links between natural and cultural heritage and the well-being of communities</p> <p>Develop research and concrete projects that make visible the role of World Heritage in economies and the need to integrate economic aspects (not only financial) in the management of World Heritage.</p>	<p>Regular communication with States Parties on sustainable development perspectives, and promotion of cooperation and synergies</p>	<p>States Parties National Focal Points</p> <p>ABs WHC Other international convention coordinators</p>	●	●	●	<p>By 2029, at least five cooperation management plans are developed</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p>
<p><b>ER 2.3</b> <b>Promote resilience at UNESCO World Heritage sites</b></p>	<p>17. Develop and implement disaster/risk preparedness plans, as well as climate adaptation and mitigation plans in accordance with the World Heritage Strategy on Disaster Risks and policy on climate change to strengthen resilience to natural hazards and climate change</p>	<p>By working with States Parties and ABs to develop risk management tools</p>	<p>States Parties National Focal Points</p> <p>ABs WHC Training institutions Private sector</p>	●	●	●	<p>By 2029, at least:</p> <p>i) 60% of the properties have a risk management plan</p> <p>Baseline: 29% (3rd cycle PR)</p> <p>ii) Three subregional meetings held on disaster risk plans</p>



							Baseline: 0
	18. Generate common baseline indicators in climate change for the entire region, for monitoring purposes and considering the environmental diversity of LAC	By working with ABs and States Parties, to develop a baseline	States Parties National Focal Points  ABs WHC	●			By 2025, a set of climate change-related monitoring indicators has been created for the region  Baseline: 0
	19. Promote World Heritage as an effective instrument for climate change adaptation, alternative sustainable solutions on renovation and traditional knowledge integration	By working with States Parties and ABs to develop climate change monitoring systems, including community knowledge	States Parties National Focal Points  ABs WHC Training institutions Private sector		●	●	By 2029, at least five projects/programmes/methods and strategies promoting the role of World Heritage in adapting to climate change  Baseline: 0
<b>ER 2.4 Enhance adequate and sustainable funding to meet the needs of World Heritage at all levels</b>	20. Develop innovative and sustainable funding mechanisms dedicated to heritage conservation and management, with special focus on: i) International cooperation (multilateral and bilateral funding, programmes and diverse instruments) ii) Private sector	Through joint mobilization of funds with States Parties, international programmes and UNESCO	States Parties National Focal Points  WHC International programmes C2C	●	●	●	By 2029: i) One regional meeting aiming at promoting shared knowledge and experiences on sustainable funding ii) At least three States Parties develop best practices on innovative funding for conservation and management  Baseline: 0

**Strategic objective – 3**  
**Develop and implement capacity-building for innovative approaches to conservation, management and promotion of World Heritage**

Expected Results (ER)	Actions/Activities	Approach	Lead partner(s)/ Responsibility	2023–2025	2026–2027	2028–2029	Performance indicator(s)
<b>ER 3.1</b> <b>Capacities to enhance sustainable conservation and effective management are developed</b>	21. Reinforce the importance of having a national training and educational strategy to strengthen the capacity development regarding World Heritage	By working with States Parties and Advisory Bodies and the training institutions to develop needs assessment and training opportunities	States Parties WHC UNESCO Field Offices C2C ABs Training institutions	●	●		By 2027, 60% of States Parties have a national capacity-building strategy for World Heritage  Baseline: 43% (PR)
	22. Promote property-specific capacity-building plans, integrating local expertise through the effective gender-balanced participation of local community, both as trainers and trainees	By working with States Parties, local associations and stakeholders, to identify common ground and capacity-building needs and opportunities	States Parties WHC UNESCO Field Offices Civil society		●	●	By 2029, 80% of properties have a property-specific capacity-building plan or programmes that develop local expertise  Baseline: 60% (PR)

	<p><b>23.</b> Develop online modules to build the capacities of site managers and stakeholders, notably on emerging issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Adaptation to climate change</li> <li>ii) Risk preparedness</li> <li>iii) Funding opportunities</li> <li>iv) Governance</li> <li>v) Inclusive development</li> </ul>	By working with States Parties and Advisory Bodies and the training institutions to develop needs assessment and training modules	States Parties WHC UNESCO Field Offices C2C ABs Training institutions	●	●	●	<p>By 2029, five capacity training modules/subjects developed</p> <p>Baseline: 1 (<a href="https://www.iccrom.org/courses/managing-world-heritage-people-nature-culture-pnc22">https://www.iccrom.org/courses/managing-world-heritage-people-nature-culture-pnc22</a>)</p>	
<p><b>ER 3.2</b> <b>Promote exchange programmes for shared knowledge</b></p>	<p><b>24.</b> Enhance sharing of experience, peer learning and transfer of knowledge, including traditional/Indigenous knowledge by strengthening a network of site managers</p>	By working on existing good experiences, developed at property and national level, sharing among site managers and local community and Indigenous peoples	States Parties  WHC Civil society Indigenous peoples Site managers UNESCO Chairs	●	●		<p>By 2027:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Two exchange meetings are organized, including site managers and Indigenous peoples</li> </ul> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii) Guidelines are made public on orientation for a better integration of traditional knowledge</li> </ul> <p>Baseline: 0</p>	
	<p><b>25.</b> Enhance international cooperation among States Parties, national Focal Points and site managers to promote twinning programmes between sites in the region</p>	By the identification of problems, challenges and shared solutions and the exchange of experiences and best practices	States Parties WHC ABs National Focal Points  Site managers			●	●	<p>By 2029, at least 60% of the properties have developed a twinning programme.</p> <p>Baseline: 31% (PR)</p>
	<p><b>26.</b> Support regional and subregional networking and capacity-building, in diverse languages, as per national and local needs</p>	By working with States Parties and UNESCO Field Offices	UNESCO Field Offices  States Parties		●	●	●	<p>By 2029, at least three regional exchange frameworks are started, based on language-needs</p>

			National Focal Points Site managers WHC UNESCO Chairs				Baseline: 0
<b>Strategic objective – 4</b> <b>Enhance better use of heritage education, communication and awareness-raising formulas for the protection of World Heritage</b>							
Expected Results (ER)	Actions/ Activities	Approach	Lead partner(s)/ Responsibility	2023–2025	2026–2027	2028–2029	Performance indicator(s)
<b>ER 4.1</b> <b>Heritage education, communication and awareness-raising to be enhanced</b>	27. Improve use of technologies, with special focus on: i) Developing new channels, such as digital platforms, for World Heritage communication ii) Engage youth in the production of digital communication tools	By working with technology experts and youth, to support States Parties in their communication tools	States Parties  WHC ABs Private sector	●	●	●	By 2029, at least:  i) Eight examples of using new technologies in awareness-raising are available  Baseline: tbc  ii) Two exchanges with youth leaders to promote tailored digital communication  Baseline: 0
	28. Develop collaboration between heritage institutions, universities, museums and national education programmes to integrate cultural and natural heritage into school and university curricula	By working with UNESCO's Education sector and ABs to support States Parties in their education programme	States Parties  WHC ABs Private sector	●	●		By 2027, at least:  i) Five States Parties integrate World Heritage into education curricula  Baseline: tbc

							ii) Two exchange and immersion programmes for university students are supported  Baseline: tbc
	29. Communication materials on the World Heritage Convention are translated into local languages and disseminated	In collaboration with Field Offices and States Parties	State Party  UNESCO Field Offices ABs	●	●		By 2027, at <b>least</b> five sets of materials on the World Heritage Convention are developed and translated into local languages (including Indigenous ones) in LAC  Baseline: tbc
<b>ER 4.2 Improve World Heritage properties presentation</b>	30. Improve interpretation of sites, mainly for site signage and specially focused on newly declared World Heritage properties. Promote the dissemination of World Heritage and its management needs in all international spaces of UNESCO and international organizations. Promote international banking to support projects for the dissemination of World Heritage in which different generations and different countries from various regions participate	By identifying needs and promoting cooperation opportunities at international and national level	International Assistance  WHC States Parties National Focal Points Site managers	●	●	●	By 2029, 30% of properties have improved their site signage  Baseline: tbc

	31. Enhance the attention and subsequent implementation of recommendations from visitors into the interpretation plan of the World Heritage properties	By promoting sharing experiences on good practices to get the visitors' point of view and address recommendations into management decisions and presentation of the site	States Parties Site managers  ABs WHC	●	●	●	By 2029, at least ten recommendations identified through surveys among visitors, and shared at regional level  Baseline: tbc
<b>ER 4.3 Develop useful research for the conservation of properties</b>	32. Promote scientific research that responds to the needs identified by site managers in the daily management of the properties, promoting research-based solutions to be implemented in the properties	By collaborating between universities, research centres, national Focal Points and site managers, in the common identification of needs	States Parties  Universities UNESCO Chairs National Focal Points Site Managers WHC	●	●		By 2027, at least 15 research programmes adapted to WH properties' conservation needs.  Baseline: 7 (see list of UNESCO Chairs in LAC)

**Strategic objective – 5**  
**Reinforce community participation and stakeholder engagement for effective management of World Heritage properties**

<b>Expected Results (ER)</b>	<b>Actions/Activities</b>	<b>Approach</b>	<b>Lead partner(s)/ Responsibility</b>	<b>2023–2025</b>	<b>2026–2027</b>	<b>2028–2029</b>	<b>Performance indicator(s)</b>
<b>ER 5.1 Improve the role and involvement of local communities and Indigenous peoples, and stakeholders in</b>	33. Strengthen the conservation and management capacities of community-based organizations while mapping and supporting the engagement and involvement of local communities, Indigenous peoples and all relevant stakeholders	Through coordinated activities in collaboration with UNESCO Field Offices and States Parties, community-based associations, and relevant stakeholders	States Parties  UNESCO Field Offices WHC ABs	●	●	●	By 2029, at least 50% of properties have a strategy involving community-based organization and Indigenous peoples  Baseline: 10%

<b>conservation and management of UNESCO World Heritage properties</b>		Through the identification and dissemination of community participation programmes in cultural and natural heritage processes				
	34. Develop case studies and support pilot projects to showcase and reinforce the integration and contributions of knowledge and practices, including traditional management systems	By working with social leaders, Indigenous peoples, civil society, UNESCO Field Offices and ABs, to identify participation formulas	States Parties, National Focal Points UNESCO Field Offices WHC ABs	●	●	By 2027, at least 30% of World Heritage properties develop one pilot project/good practice  Baseline: 5%
	35. Strengthen managers to be in a position to integrate the active gender-balanced participation of communities, together with creating the forums for effective shared decision-making	By working with social leaders, civil society, UNESCO Field Offices and ABs, to identify participation formulas	States Parties  UNESCO Field Offices WHC ABs National Focal Points Site managers	●	●	By 2027, at least 50% of World Heritage properties consider that community participation is improved  Baseline: 10%
	36. Leverage opportunities presented by national and international cultural and natural heritage commemorations to support the gender-balanced participation of communities, including youth, in World Heritage activities	Through collaboration between UNESCO Field Offices and States Parties	WHC States Parties	●	●	●
<b>ER 5.2 Strengthen sustainable tourism in accordance with communities' human rights</b>	37. Reinforce locally driven sustainable tourism opportunities around the World Heritage properties, with specific studies related to impact on OUV and sustainability, with gender-balanced and human rights- based participation of	By cooperation with States Parties, local associations and tourism industry, to identify problems and implement solutions	States Parties National Focal Points Site Managers Private sector UNESCO Field Offices		●	By 2027, a regional meeting is held to identify needs and promote guidelines on sustainable tourism and communities' human rights  Baseline: 0

	communities, Indigenous peoples and youth		WHC			
<b>ER 5.3 Integrate stakeholders for an effective governance and management of sites</b>	<b>38.</b> Strengthen communities and stakeholders gender-balanced participation to enable sustainable livelihoods in and around World Heritage properties, with a special focus on buffer zones	By coordinating activities with the private sector, local communities, community-based organizations and heritage experts, site managers, UNESCO Field Offices	States Parties National Focal Points Site Managers Private sector UNESCO Field Offices WHC	●	●	By 2027, at least five properties have specific plans for buffer zones and community participation  Baseline: 0
	<b>39.</b> Associate key stakeholders at all levels (governmental and from communities) in risk preparedness of World Heritage properties, by integrating all existing resources, such as emergency professionals and traditional knowledge	By mapping resources and possibilities, both from local community and from diverse protection services at institutions	States Parties  ABs (ICCROM) National Focal Points Site Managers Private sector UNESCO Field Offices WHC	●	●	By 2027, at least one specific guidelines document is public, including possibilities for integrating stakeholders into risk preparedness  Baseline: 0



## 7. DRAFT DECISION

### **Draft Decision: 45 COM 10B**

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined document WHC/23/45.COM/10B,
2. Recalling Decisions 41 COM 10A, 42 COM 10A, 43 COM 10B and 44 COM 10D adopted at its 41st (Krakow, 2017), 42nd (Manama, 2018), 43rd (Baku, 2019) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/Online, 2021) sessions respectively,
3. Commends the efforts of States Parties in the Latin America and the Caribbean region in the completion and submission of Section I, and the very high level of completion and submission of Section II of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire;
4. Thanks the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (Mexico) and the Regional Heritage Management Training Centre 'Lucio Costa' (Brazil), and Advisory Bodies in facilitating the Periodic Reporting exercise in the region;
5. Welcomes with satisfaction the Third Cycle Regional Report in Latin America and the Caribbean and encourages the States Parties to widely disseminate it among all relevant stakeholders in the region;
6. Takes note of the planned publication of the Third Cycle Periodic Report in the Latin America and the Caribbean region in the World Heritage paper series, subject to the availability of funding resources, and invites States Parties to contribute financially for this purpose;
7. Also commends the joint efforts made by the national Focal Points and World Heritage site managers, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in producing an Action Plan framework in an adaptable format, in order to facilitate its appropriation and implementation by the States Parties;
8. Endorses the Third Cycle Regional Framework Action Plan developed in cooperation with all States Parties and other heritage stakeholders in the region and notes with satisfaction that the priorities align with those set out in the Declaration unanimously adopted at the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development – MONDIACULT 2022 (Mexico City, 2022) and the reflections undertaken at the international conference 'The Next 50 - The Future of World Heritage in Challenging Times, Enhancing Resilience and Sustainability' (Delphi, 2022);
9. Encourages States Parties to appropriate the Third Cycle Regional Framework Action Plan into their national and sub-regional heritage strategies and policies, and requests the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, the Category 2 Centres, and other partners, to support States Parties in its implementation;
10. Also requests the UNESCO World Heritage Centre to monitor the implementation of the Framework Regional Action Plan in view of preparing a mid-cycle assessment report to be presented to World Heritage Committee after three years.

## **ANNEXES**

- Annex I**      [Quantitative Summary of the Outcomes for Section I](#)
- Annex II**     [Quantitative Summary of the Outcomes for Section II](#)
- Annex III**    [Summary of the Outcomes of the Monitoring Indicators](#)