

Submission Form

At its 35th session (UNESCO Paris, 2011), the World Heritage Committee (Decision 35COM12D.7) “requested the World Heritage Centre, with the support of the Advisory Bodies, **to develop, for further consideration the proposal** contained in Document WHC-11/35.COM/12D [...] and to further **explore ways of recognising and rewarding best practice through a one-off initiative** at the closing event of the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention (November 2012, Japan)...”.

States Parties to the World Heritage Convention are invited to participate in this initiative by proposing World Heritage properties in their country that they regard as an example of successful management and sustainable development.

In order to be eligible the site has to apply with the following criteria:

- The suggested site must be a property inscribed on the World Heritage List;
- Successful management and sustainable development has to be clearly demonstrated;
- Best practices are considered those that are tried, tested and applied in different situations and in a wider context;
- An overall good performance on all headings mentioned in the submission form, with an exemplary performance in at least one of the areas;
- An outstanding example of innovative management in dealing with one or more management challenges / issues that could offer lessons to other sites.

Each State Party may propose a maximum of two properties, preferably relating to one cultural and one natural site.

This form contains 9 topics for demonstrating best management practice – it is not necessary to comply with all of them but it would be appreciated if you could provide a comprehensive response to as many topics as possible. In your responses to the question, please provide all facts and figures to substantiate the answers, and describe the before and after situation of implementing the best practice intervention. The objective is to illustrate clearly why the example can qualify as a best practice and can be used as a source of inspiration for other World Heritage properties.

The topics are based on questions dealt with in the Periodic Reporting questionnaire.

Recognizing and rewarding best practice in management of World Heritage properties

State Party: Japan

Title proposed World Heritage property: Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto (Kyoto, Uji and Otsu Cities)

Brief description of the property:

Built in AD 794 on the model of the capitals of ancient China, Kyoto was the imperial capital of Japan from its foundation until the mid-nineteenth century. As the centre of Japanese culture for more than 1,000 years, Kyoto illustrates the development of Japanese wooden architecture, particularly religious architecture, and the art of Japanese gardens, which has influenced landscape gardening the world over.

Both Chinese culture and Buddhism were having a profound influence on Japan when the capital moved to Kyoto, then named Heian-kyo, in AD 794. Aristocratic society clustered around the imperial court for the four centuries of the Heian period (794-1192). By the end of this period, however, the military samurai class was growing in power, and civil war started in 1185. It led to the establishment of a samurai military regime at Kamakum, although the imperial court remained at Kyoto. The Sekisui-in at Kozan-ji is the best example of the residential architecture of this period, which ended in 1332 with the establishment of the Muromachi Shogunate. This period saw the building of large temples of the Rinzaï Zen sect, such as Temyu-ji, and the creation of Zen gardens, of which that at Saiho-ji is a representative example.

The Muromachi Shogunate reached its height at the end of the fourteenth century; this was reflected in buildings such as the villa of Shogun Ashikaga Yoshimitsu, which later became the Buddhist temple Rokuon-ji. Garden design was refined into pure art, as demonstrated by the garden of the abbot's residence at Ryoan-ji.

Much of Kyoto was destroyed in the Onin War (1467-77), but it was rebuilt by a new urban merchant class who replaced the aristocrats who had fled during the war.

The centre of power moved to Edo (present-day Tokyo), and in Kyoto the strong castle of Ngo-jo was built at the heart of the city.

The political stability of the late sixteenth century saw a new spirit of confidence among both merchants and the military, reflected in the opulence and boldness of the architecture; the Sanpo-in residential complex and garden at Daigo-jo are examples of this. The following century

saw Heian temples and shrines, such as Kiyomizudera, being restored in traditional style. During this period the supremacy of Kyoto as a centre of pilgrimage became established.

Please answer the questions below demonstrating the successful management and sustainable development of the World Heritage property and why it is an example of a best practice.

Topics for demonstrating best management practice:		Please indicate in this column why your World Heritage property is a best practice in relation to the topic:
1.	<p>Conservation:</p> <p><i>What innovative management practices or strategies are being applied in order to ensure the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property (e.g. better resource management, restoration and rehabilitation, addressing various man-made or natural threats and challenges, etc.)?</i></p>	<p>“Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto” is one of the most typical World Heritage sites situated in urban context. Almost all of its component parts are surrounded by houses, office buildings and other city facilities. Thus, in order to conserve the Outstanding Universal Value of the site, protection of the inscribed properties themselves is not enough. Rather, wholistic approach is crucial. In this context, the local authority (Kyoto City) introduced comprehensive urban landscape control policy in 2007. It comprises 5 main elements and the support systems. To implement these measures in Kyoto City, a broad range of city planning and ordinance were changed. The 5 main elements are as follows, 1) building Height, 2) design of buildings, 3) surrounding scenery and vistaed view, 4) outdoor advertisements and, 5) historical streets.</p>
2.	<p>Local People:</p> <p><i>What exemplary practices are you using in order to effectively address the needs of local stakeholders within the management system for the property, and enable their full and active participation?</i></p>	<p>In Kyoto, local stakeholders involvement is achieved in two parallel ways; mutual communication between authorities and local populations, and effective scheme which supports bottom-up process for the management of the property and/or surrounding urban settings.</p> <p>Kyoto City has made enormous efforts through various channels including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Holding lecture courses for key stakeholders for creation of relevant townscapes *Establishment of a new scheme of local consultative meeting, which should be officially designated by the city mayor and have authority to set a plan on the policy of respective townscapes.

	Topics for demonstrating best management practice:	Please indicate in this column why your World Heritage property is a best practice in relation to the topic:
3.	<p>Legal framework:</p> <p><i>What special measures have you taken to ensure that the legal framework for the World Heritage site is effective in maintaining the OUV of the property?</i></p>	<p>In the complicated modern city, the wholistic landscape control scheme must cover many aspects. That's why the new landscape policy is connected to city planning, several ordinances of Kyoto City, and supporting systems, such as;</p> <p>City Planning: building height control districts, scenic districts, scenic landscape districts (revised) City Ordinance on the Preservation of Vistad Views (established) An ordinance requiring special permits for building exceeding heights controls (established) City Ordinances on the Betterment of Urban Landscapes (revised) City Ordinances on the Scenic Landscape Districts (revised) Ordinances on advertisements (revised) City Ordinances on the Preservation of Natural Scenery (revised)</p> <p>Such wholistic and combined approach would be a good example for many other WH sites in urban context concerning its usage of various existing and/or new legal tools in an integrated manner.</p>

Topics for demonstrating best management practice:	Please indicate in this column why your World Heritage property is a best practice in relation to the topic:
<p>4. Boundaries:</p> <p><i>What innovative ways of dealing with the boundaries of the property, including for management of the buffer zone do you have in place, to effectively to manage the site and protect its OUV?</i></p>	
<p>5. Sustainable finance:</p> <p><i>What effective strategies have you developed and implemented to assure adequate and sustainable financial resources for implementing the management measures required to maintain the site's OUV?</i></p>	
<p>6. Staffing training and development:</p> <p><i>What approaches and strategies have you developed and implemented to assure that the human resources are adequate to manage the World Heritage property?</i></p>	

Topics for demonstrating best management practice:	Please indicate in this column why your World Heritage property is a best practice in relation to the topic:
<p>7. Sustainable development:</p> <p><i>What are the effective mechanisms in place to ensure that resource use permitted in and around the World Heritage site is sustainable and does not impact negatively on OUV?</i></p>	<p>With the keyword “So that Kyoto will always remain Kyoto”, this new landscape policy is intended to bolster the Kyoto Brand, adding value and a positive effect to the economy. It would be useful in increasing residents and population for interaction, concentration of excellent human resources, investment growth in local industry, tourist industry, knowledge-based industry, etc. Not only because this new approach is based upon a long-term view, but also because its aim is wide-ranged, from conserving OUV of WH property to improving city life quality, it would be an advanced model of the conservation initiative in historic towns.</p> <p>Furthermore, as inseparable part of cultural aspect of Kyoto, intangible cultural heritage, including “Yamahoko, the float ceremony of the Kyoto Gion festival” (inscribed on the UNESCO Intangible Heritage List in 2009), is also integrated in the policy. Such integrated approach would offer lessons to other site.</p>
<p>8. Education and interpretation programmes:</p> <p><i>How do the education, interpretation and awareness programmes you have developed and implemented significantly enhance the understanding of OUV of the site among stakeholders?</i></p>	

Topics for demonstrating best management practice:	Please indicate in this column why your World Heritage property is a best practice in relation to the topic:
<p>9. Tourism and interpretation:</p> <p><i>What innovative plans have you designed and successfully implemented to ensure that visitor management does not negatively impact on the maintenance of the property's OUV?</i></p>	
<p>Additional comments:</p>	
<p>For details, please refer to attached document (also available on a WEB site)</p> <p>http://www.city.kyoto.jp/koho/eng/index.html</p>	
<p>Brief description/ summary of the best practice, including a statement on how it can be useful for other sites (max.600 words)</p>	
<p>“Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto” is one of the most typical World Heritage sites situated in urban context. Although its component parts are limited to temples, shrines and a castle, it is quite crucial to protect its surrounding context as well as the property itself in an integrated manner, in order to transmit its Outstanding Universal Value to the future generations. In this context, while continuing activities to preserve the sites and monuments of the inscribed properties, the local authority (Kyoto city) introduced a new landscape policy in 2007.</p> <p>In the face of a society declining in population, and based upon understanding that the city has entered an age of city competition where each city appeals to its uniqueness to vie for allure as a city, the new policy is aimed to conserve and improve its landscape in order to</p>	

generate a new added value of enhancement to its city character and allure. It would result in increased residence and population for interaction, concentration of excellent human resources, investment growth in local industry, tourist industry, knowledge based industry, etc. Under this broader and long-term view, the new landscape controlling policy has been set in order to preserve its unique urban landscape.

The new landscape policy comprises 5 main elements and the support systems. To implement these measures in Kyoto City, a broad range of city planning and ordinance were changed. The 5 main elements are as follows, 1) building Height, 2) design of buildings, 3) surrounding scenery and vistaed view, 4) outdoor advertisements and, 5) historical streets. Furthermore, Kyoto city has kept continuing efforts to improve this wholistic scheme concerning better communication between relevant authorities and local populations, better design standard for new construction, and more efficient implementation.

This new scheme would be a “best practice” to other WH sites in urban context in many aspect, including:

- Integrated approach for conserving historic urban landscape;
- Using existing and/or new legal and institutional tools in one concept;
- Implementing public involvement in a huge modern city, and;
- Protecting surrounding context in connection with the OUV of the WH property.

In conclusion, “Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto” should be one of the best practices, because it would be an advanced case in the context of historic urban conservation against broad issues in the modern city, which could cause of irreversible damage of the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property.

Finally, please provide us, if possible, with up to ten images of the concerned World Heritage property that can be used free of rights in UNESCO publications (commercial and/or non-commercial), and on the UNESCO website. Please provide the name of the photographer and the caption along with the images (he/she will be credited for any use of the images).