



International Council on
Monuments and Sites
Conseil International
des Monuments et des Sites

CONCEPT NOTE

Capacity-building workshop for the religious representatives involved in the management and use of the World Heritage properties of religious interest

Rationale

According to statistics the properties having religious or spiritual connection (living religious sites) constitute the largest single category on the World Heritage List. Specific and significant spiritual meanings are mentioned to justify the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of a large number of the World Heritage properties.

One of the main challenges for the States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* is to ensure, at the national level, the effective protection and management of the properties of Outstanding Universal Value inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List – guaranteeing its transmission to the future generations.

The best approach to address the issues related to a better understanding of the significance of the properties and the roles and responsibilities of national and local authorities and religious communities would be to establish a closer dialogue among the stakeholders with a view to empower the religious communities who are the true custodians of these sites.

A question on the importance of establishing a platform for dialogue and mutual understanding among numerous stakeholders involved in the preservation of heritage of religious interest was discussed during the first major international meeting organized under the patronage of UNESCO on the role of the religious communities in the management of World Heritage properties in 2010 (Kyiv, Ukraine).

[NOTE: INFORMATION ON NATIONAL SPECIFICITIES AND NEEDS SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE RELEVANT NATIONAL AUTHORITIES – Please see

examples on:

<http://whc.unesco.org/document/123425> <http://whc.unesco.org/document/124116>]

This workshop, tailored to the specific needs, seeks to strengthen the knowledge, abilities and skills of the representatives of the religious communities through direct involvement in heritage of religious interest management and use.

Goal

To increase awareness and reinforce involvement of religious communities in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

Objectives

- To provide participants with knowledge on the key concepts and processes of the World Heritage Convention and their links to religious significance;
- To provide participants with key knowledge on the measures and instruments for protection, conservation, presentation, rehabilitation and management of the World Heritage properties, which should ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value of the WH properties, including the conditions of integrity and/or authenticity at the time of inscription, are sustained or enhanced over time, such as:
 - protective legislation at the national, provincial or municipal level;
 - plans related to municipality and region in which the WH property is located (regional or local plan planning instruments, planning control mechanisms, conservation plan, tourism development plan);
 - legislative and administrative provisions for the conservation of the property;
 - policies and programmes related to the conservation of the property;
 - management plan and annual work plans for the management and maintenance of the property;
- To provide participants with the conclusions of the International Seminar on the role of the religious communities in the management of World Heritage properties, the ICCROM 2003 Forum on Living Religious Heritage, the ICOMOS Resolution on Religious Heritage, as well as other initiatives;
- To discuss World Heritage management requirements and their implications at site levels including monitoring and state of conservation reporting when required;
- To understand existing management systems and decision-making mechanisms within the properties and to review the status of development of a joint management system requested by the World Heritage Committee;
- To identify the main obstacles which exist in the domain of protection, conservation and integrated management of the World Heritage properties of religious interest;
- To discuss the development of appropriate mechanisms to acquire an in-depth knowledge of the national specificities in the protection and management of cultural and natural heritage of religious interest and to consolidate knowledge on the study, development and practical application of national policies in this domain and relevant international normative instruments;
- To discuss the development and implementation of appropriate national legal measures and rules for conservation, restoration, management and use of World Heritage properties of religious interest;
- To discuss relations between religious communities, national authorities and intergovernmental organisations;
- To understand and share roles and responsibilities of all the stakeholders concerned (national and local authorities, religious communities) and the role that religious communities should play in the long-term management of World Heritage properties and heritage preservation;
- To establish a connection between similar properties in the country and later on elsewhere.

Proposed Lectures and discussions

1. Concept of Outstanding Universal Value, including the conditions of integrity and/or authenticity expressed through a variety of attributes and indicators of character, sense/spirit of place and its relationship to the World Heritage properties – *Lecture by resource person /Discussion/Question and Answer*
2. Cultural values represented by the World Heritage properties themselves, as well as of the role such monuments and sites play in contemporary society - *Lecture by resource person /Discussion/Question and Answer*
3. Why these places are important to the religious community and what types of activities are taking place - *Discussion/Question and Answer* Understanding of authenticity which plays a fundamental role in all scientific studies of the cultural heritage, in conservation practices and restoration planning - *Lecture by resource person/Discussion/Question and Answer*
4. Managing World Heritage properties to sustain or enhance Outstanding Universal Value as well as other values to the community including responsibilities of all stakeholders (State Party, religious community, local communities etc.) - *Lecture by resource person/Discussion/Question and Answer*
5. Current management regimes within the World Heritage properties of religious interest - *Lecture by resource person/Discussion/Question and Answer*
6. Management aspects related to pilgrims, visitors and local communities (these include interpretation and presentation) - *Lecture by resource person/Discussion/Question and Answer*
7. Is there sufficient information available for religious communities regarding the Outstanding Universal Value of the properties they use for religious purposes, including information about regulations and international norms with regards to the protection and management of World Heritage properties? Does sufficient information exist regarding the sacred and spiritual values and religious practices associated with living religious properties? - *Discussion/Question and Answer*
8. What are the differences between the management, use and protection approaches of professionals in these fields and of religious communities regarding religious monuments, sites and sacred places? - *Lecture by resource person/Discussion/Question and Answer*
9. How to establish a balance between requirements of religious communities and protection and management of the World Heritage properties of religious interest in order to sustain the fundamental cultural values of these properties? - *Lecture by resource person /Discussion/ Question and Answer*
10. How should the recommendations regarding the regulations for conservation and management of religious properties take into account (1) the specific issues of the on-going needs of religious communities and (2) access to the religious World Heritage properties for visitors and specialists in the field of conservation/restoration? - *Lecture by resource person /Discussion/ Question and Answer*
11. What role does or should religious communities play with regard to on-site conservation, restoration activities and management? - *Discussion/Question and Answer*
12. How can the pro-active involvement and support of religious communities in the conservation and management of World Heritage properties contribute the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* by a State Party? - *Discussion/Question and Answer*
13. Future roles and responsibilities – *General discussion*

Methodology

Workshop comprises of formal lectures by resource persons and religious communities on identified themes and interactive sessions between the participants and resources persons to discuss key issues and eventually to develop a framework for an appropriate management system and an action work plan. The service of a moderator would be highly appropriated.

Expected Outputs

1. Framework for the development of a management systems identifying key components
2. Draft list of role and responsibilities of all relevant stakeholders
3. Outline of a plan for future activities including a time table
4. Network of stakeholders

Organisers

In coordination with

UNESCO World Heritage Centre
ICCROM
ICOMOS International

Target Audiences

Representatives of the religious communities with direct involvement in heritage of religious interest management and use
World Heritage site managers

Providers and resource persons

National institutions / relevant Ministries
Heritage practitioners associated with World Heritage properties of religious interest
UNESCO World Heritage Centre
ICCROM
ICOMOS International

Duration: Two/three days training workshop

Venue: