

Side event to the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee

Istanbul, Turkey

Discussion on follow-up activities to the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting and the Helsinki Action Plan

Summary of proceedings

The Focal Points for Europe and North America met during a side event to the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee in Istanbul, Turkey, on 15 July 2016 at the Istanbul Congress Centre. They participated in a discussion on follow-up activities to the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, including the Helsinki Action Plan monitoring survey, and were presented with two new publications based on the outcomes of the exercise. The following is a summary of the proceedings.

Welcome remarks

Mechtild Rössler, Director of the World Heritage Centre, welcomed the Focal Points of Europe and North America to the side event devoted to Periodic Reporting, a statutory process, she noted, that is one of the most important pillars of the *Convention*.

Dr Rössler presented the aims of the side event, which were to:

- present the **Helsinki Action Plan Monitoring Survey**;
- launch the **publications** *World Heritage in Europe Today* and “Understanding World Heritage in Europe and North America: Final Report of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, 2012-2015”; and
- open a **forum** for sharing achievements in the implementation of the Helsinki Action Plan for Europe.

She then presented general remarks on each of these subjects. She noted the innovative nature of the Action Plan itself, being based on quantitative targets and the design of the survey to reflect the same simplified approach. The format is both simple to use and able to generate a precise set of data.

Dr Rössler went on to note that the new **publications** are important tools that the World Heritage Centre is using to make the Periodic Reporting data readily available to a greater number of stakeholders. With the publication of *World Heritage in Europe Today*, the general public can obtain a greater understanding of the processes and mechanisms involved in World Heritage and a current snapshot of the status of World Heritage in Europe.

The second publication, part of the *World Heritage Papers* series, is a reference tool for heritage professionals that includes the complete data sets and final reports of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting for both Europe and North America.

The Director reiterated the three main priority areas identified at the end of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting:

- Identification and protection of Outstanding Universal Value
- Effective Management of World Heritage Properties
- Increased Awareness of the World Heritage Convention

She noted that the priorities are not mutually exclusive, that each one depends the others to work: the identification and protection of OUV is central to the effective management of World Heritage properties, and these are made possible through greater awareness of the World Heritage Convention.

Finally, Dr Rössler encouraged the Focal Points in their work towards achieving the regional priorities and sharing their good practices through the **forum for discussion** for regional collaboration.

Presentation of the Helsinki Action Plan Monitoring Survey

Following the opening remarks, Alexandra Fiebig, Project Officer, Focal Point for Periodic Reporting, Europe and North America Unit, gave a presentation on the Helsinki Action Plan Monitoring Survey.

1. Introduction and brief background

Ms Fiebig provided a brief introduction to the survey, noting that it follows recommendation in the Committee decision endorsing the Helsinki Action Plan (**39 COM 10A.1**, Bonn, 2015). The survey has been developed as a simple tool to conduct a biennial review, or regional “check-up,” of progress made in the implementation of the Helsinki Action Plan.

The Helsinki Action Plan was developed by the Focal Points of Europe in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre during the final meeting for the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, which took place in Suomenlinna (Finland) in December 2014. It was noted that it had been difficult to take stock of the results of the First Cycle Action Plan, due to the broad nature of the regional and sub-regional actions. As a result, quantifiable regional targets were included in the Action Plan for the Second Cycle.

In addition, since it is difficult to develop regional targets that are equally relevant for each State Party, the focal points of Europe were invited to take the Action Plan as a framework to be adapted to their specific needs. This means that it is up to each State Party to decide which of the 34 actions are most relevant to the situation in their country.

There are two main objectives for the monitoring survey. Each State Party can assess its own progress on a biannual basis, while at the same time States Parties are reminded of the priorities endorsed at the end of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting. In addition, it will allow the World Heritage Centre to monitor progress toward the achievement of the regional targets.

A summary of the results will be presented to the Committee every two years. Four surveys (2016, 2018, 2020, 2022) and four reports (41COM, 43COM, 45COM, 47COM) to the Committee are foreseen. This will be a unique opportunity to assess regional progress. Because of the ongoing Periodic Reporting Reflection Period, which is examining the format and procedures of the exercise, some details remain to be confirmed. The Reflection Period will wrap up at the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee (Kraków, 2017).

2. The survey process

Ms Fiebig went on to describe the survey process, which will begin in October 2016. A draft version of the questionnaire was sent to the all National Focal Points of Europe in July 2016, in the lead-up to the side event, allowing Focal Points time to prepare responses in advance.

In **October 2016**, the Focal Points will receive the link to the survey, which will also be available on the website of the World Heritage Centre. The Focal Points will have two months from October to November to submit the form. The survey takes about 30 minutes to fill out, and it must be filled out one session.

Respondents begin by filling in a basic login page with their name, title, email address and State Party (only one response per country is permitted). This page is followed by a summary of background information and instructions, including a timeline and links to the relevant documents and reference materials.

Like the Action Plan, the survey is divided into three different sections, corresponding to the three main priorities:

- Identification and protection of Outstanding Universal Value
- Effective Management of World Heritage Properties
- Increased Awareness of the World Heritage Convention

Each section of the survey is divided into the priority areas with corresponding regional targets, each corresponding to one question. There are 45 questions in total (for 34 actions).

For each question, respondents must indicate if the regional target is relevant to their State Party, which will provide a clear picture of how the States Parties define the relevance of each action.

The survey questions are designed to gather quantitative information only. This is to match the format of the targets and facilitate a simplified review process. An additional result of the survey will be to establish baselines that were unknown at the end of the Second Cycle.

3. The outcomes

The general results of the survey will be presented in the form of a progress report to the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017. The compiled regional data will provide a snapshot of progress toward the targets. Each State Party will receive a summary of its own responses to track over time.

In order to simulate the presentation of the data in relation to the regional targets, a test phase was conducted by the World Heritage Centre and mock results were produced and presented at the side event.

In response to a question raised by the Focal Point for Israel, Ms Fiebig clarified that the survey will only be filled out by Focal Points and that some questions, however, require consultation with the managers at the site level.

Presentation of publications

The latest publications from the Europe and North America Unit were then presented: *World Heritage in Europe Today* and *World Heritage Reports*, no. 43, “Final Report on the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting 2012-2015”.

The latest issue of the **World Heritage Papers series** presents the complete data and analysis of the results of Periodic Reporting in Europe and North America. The publication presents the reports, quantitative results and Action Plans as an informative, technical tool for heritage professionals, including Focal Points, Site Managers and researchers. It contains the complete statistics for the whole region, including North America.

World Heritage in Europe Today is a wider-audience publication that presents the results in a concise and accessible manner. It has generated some visibility and aims to give the general public a concise picture of how the Convention works in Europe today. Christopher Young, Anatole Oudaille-Diethardt, Katri Lisitzin and Pierre Galland have contributed to the content of the publications.

Discussion and Exchange

An exchange session on follow-up activities to the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting and initiatives contributing to the implementation of the Helsinki Action

Plan was conducted afterwards by Isabelle Anatole-Gabriel, Chief of Europe and North America Unit, World Heritage Centre.

A number of representatives of States Parties took the floor and reported on the follow-up activities after the Second Cycle on the national and site levels. For example, the representative of the Netherlands reported that the analysis of each of the Periodic Reports for the properties in the Netherlands led to a review and update of the legislative framework for heritage. The representative of Israel reported that the National World Heritage Committee had been restructured further to the Second Cycle and a monitoring unit had been created.

The participants also briefly touched upon statutory processes, such as the process for updating the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, further to the 2015 revision of paragraph 155 of the *Operational Guidelines*. Some participants also raised concerns regarding the delays with technical reviews of information submitted in the framework of paragraph 172 to the World Heritage Centre.

At the closing, Isabelle Anatole-Gabriel, Chief of Europe and North America Unit, World Heritage Centre thanked the participants for their contributions and attention and expressed hope for continued cooperation with all the States Parties in the Europe and North America region. .

Follow-up activities to the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting and the Helsinki Action Plan

Side event to the 40th session of the World
Heritage Committee
Istanbul, 15 July 2016



Helsinki Action Plan Monitoring Survey

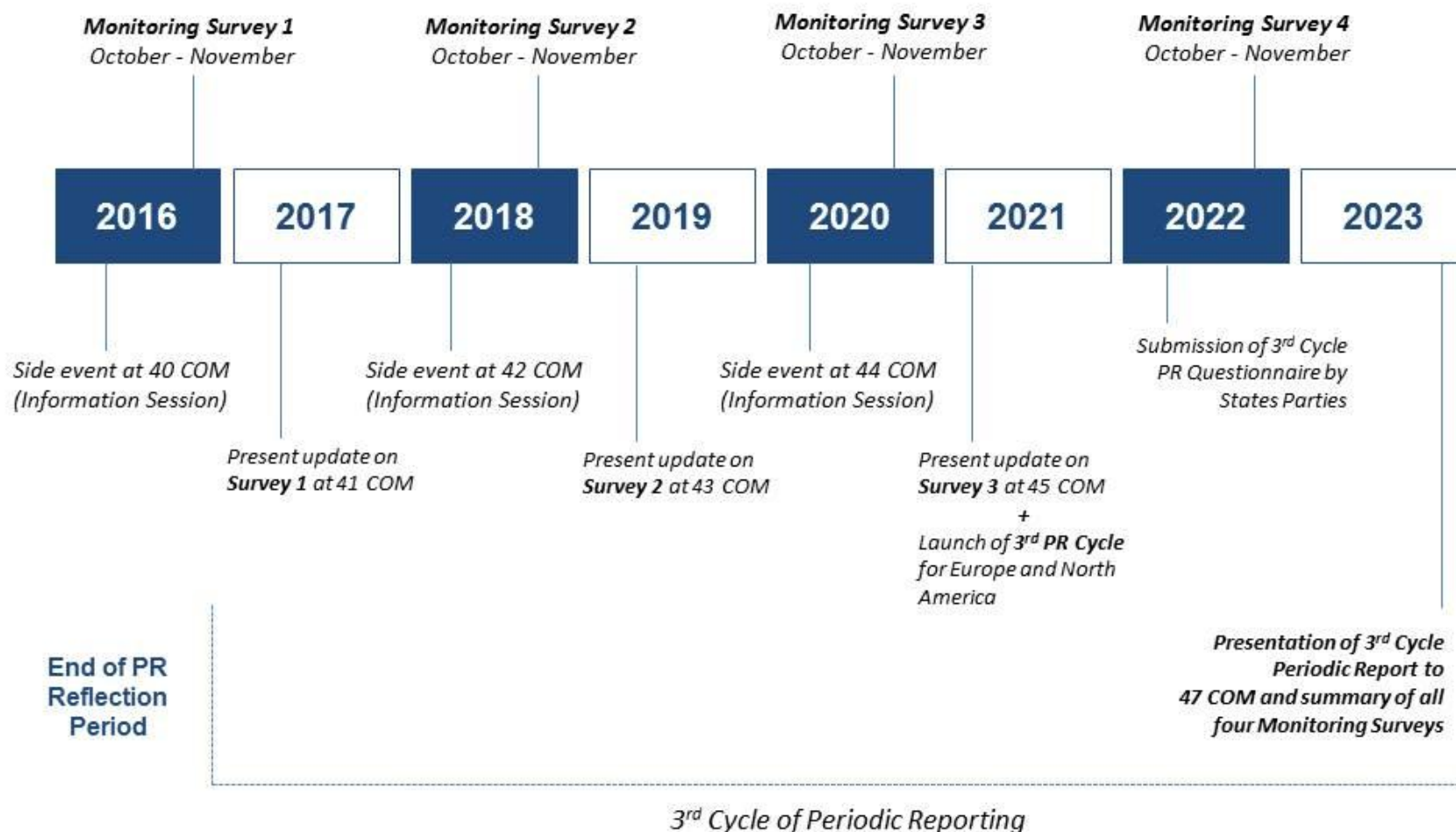


Survey Objectives

- to allow States Parties to assess their progress in the implementation of the Helsinki Action Plan and to serve as a reminder of the priorities endorsed by the Committee
- to track regional progress over time on the quantifiable regional targets, until the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting



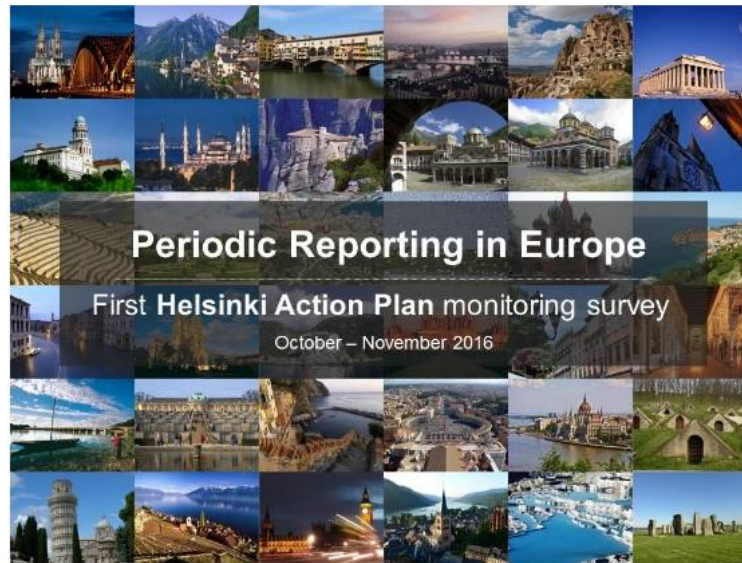
Survey Timeline



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Helsinki Action Plan Monitoring Survey



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Login Details:

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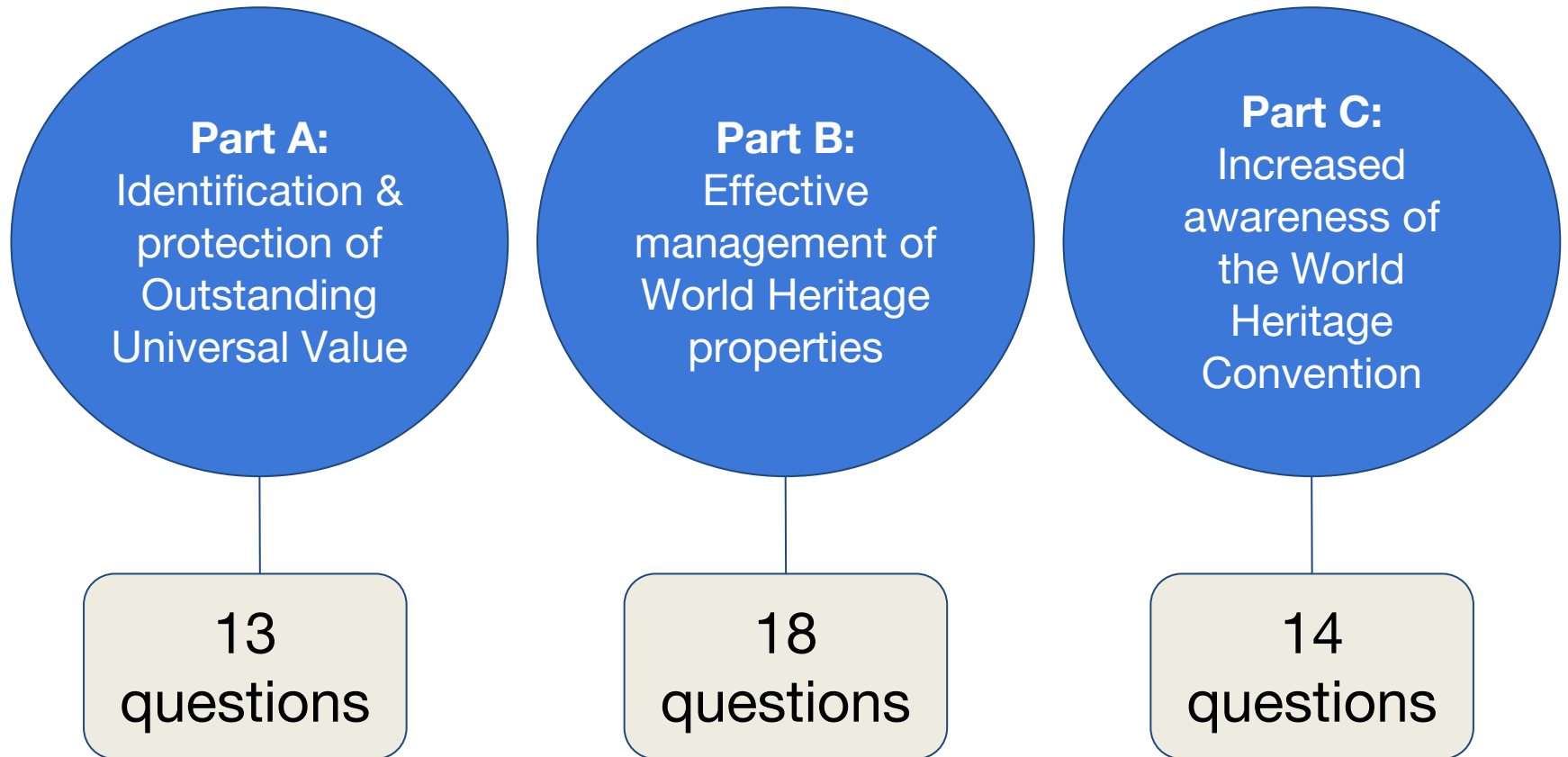
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Structure



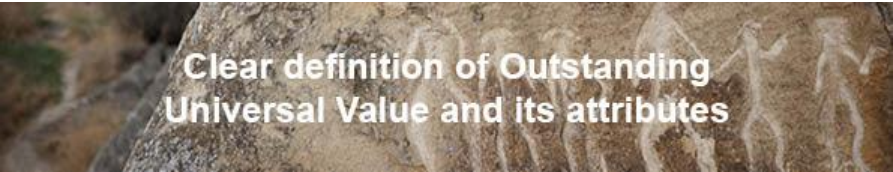
Total questions: 45

Structure: Priority Areas

Part A




Credible and effective Tentative Lists and Nominations



Clear definition of Outstanding Universal Value and its attributes

Part B



Effective Management Systems




Reinforcement of interdisciplinary skill sets for site managers


Part C



Decision makers, especially outside the heritage sector, fully aware of World Heritage and its benefits to society



Community engagement and ownership of World Heritage properties



Awareness-raising among general public, in particular communities



Young People ♥ World Heritage



World Heritage information tools widely available and used

Helsinki Action Plan Monitoring Survey

*Required



Objective 3: Clear definition of the OUV and its attributes as a basis for informed management decisions to ensure the effective protection of World Heritage properties

Action 9

Clearly identify attributes of OUV and include them as a key component of site management plan / system

Is Action 9 relevant for your State Party? *

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

If Yes, please fill in the questions listed below corresponding to Action 9:

Q12. How many properties have clearly defined attributes of Outstanding Universal Value?

Q13. How many properties have such attributes as the basis for their management system?

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*Required



Objective 7: Prioritize management responses to highest threats identified in the Periodic Report

Action 16

Present and interpret Periodic Reporting results and take appropriate management actions at national and site levels

Is Action 16 relevant for your State Party? *

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

If Yes, please fill in the question listed below corresponding to Action 16:

Q19. How many properties in your country have used the results of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting to take appropriate management actions?

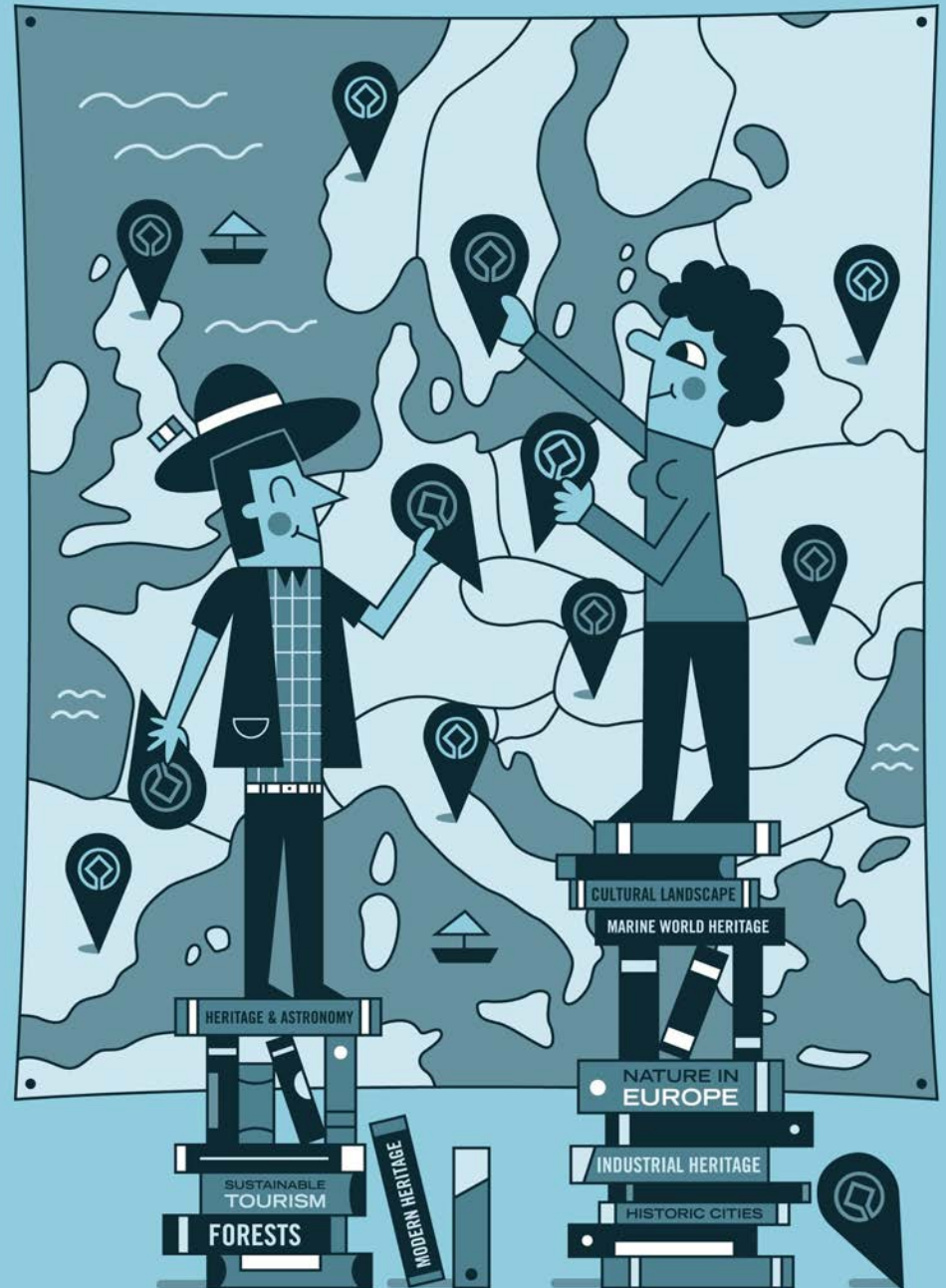
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Results

- to be presented in a progress report to the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session
- compiled regional data will provide snapshot of progress toward each of the regional targets until the Third Cycle



Priority Area

Objective

Action

Relevance

Target(s)

Results

Clear definition of OUV and its attributes

Objective: Clear definition of the OUV and its attributes as a basis for informed management decisions to ensure the effective protection of World Heritage properties

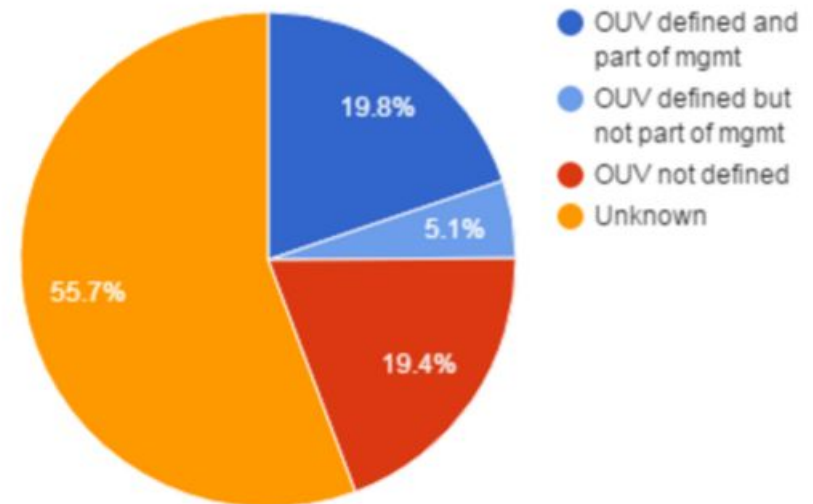
Action 9: Clearly identify attributes of OUV and include them as a key component of site management plan / system

15 out of 16 States Parties consider this action relevant

Target:

100% of properties have clearly defined attributes of OUV as basis of the management system

Definition of OUV and its integration into management plans/systems



Effective Management Systems

Objective: Prioritize management responses to highest threats identified in Periodic Report(s)

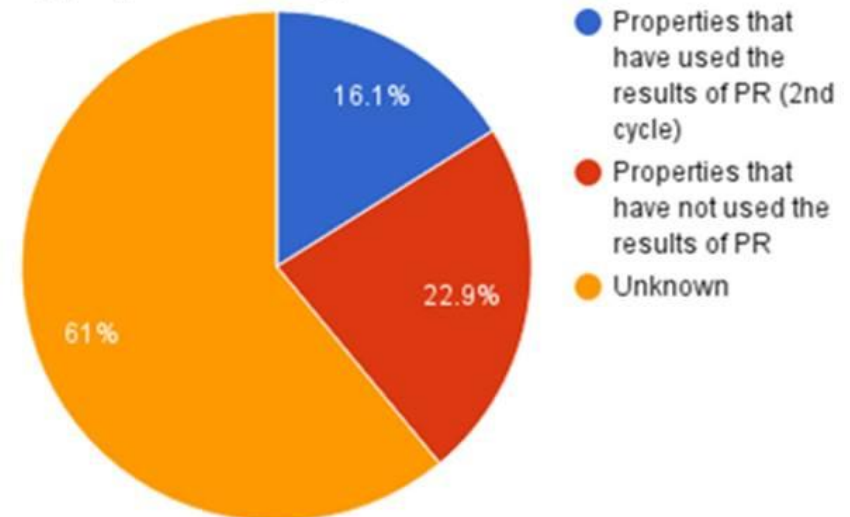
Action 16: Present and interpret Periodic Reporting results and take appropriate management actions at national and site levels

13 out of 16 States Parties consider this action relevant

Target:

100% of properties have used the results of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting to take appropriate management actions

Q19. How many properties have used the results of the 2nd Cycle of Periodic Reporting to take appropriate management actions?



Community engagement and ownership of WH properties

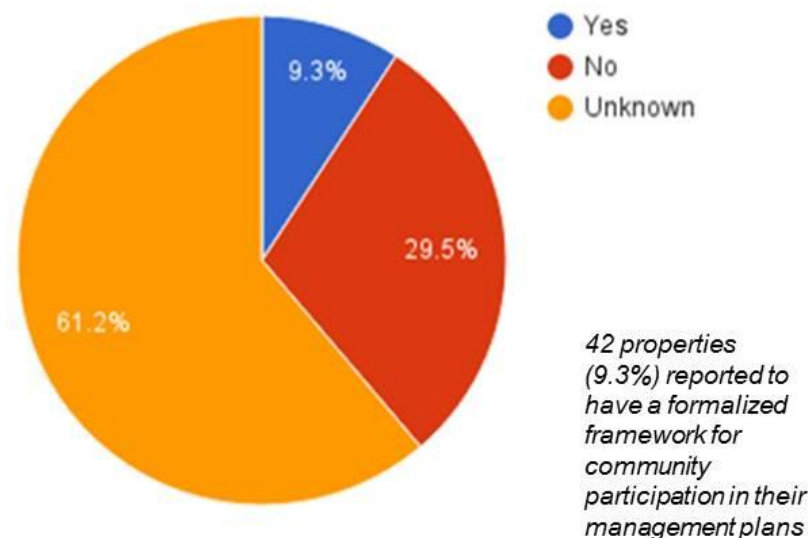
Objective: World Heritage properties that are well cared for by the community and where the community advocates for their heritage

Action 27: World Heritage professionals to: identify and engage communities (identity mapping); and empower those communities through the formalisation of continuous participatory processes in the management systems

13 out of 16 States Parties consider this action relevant

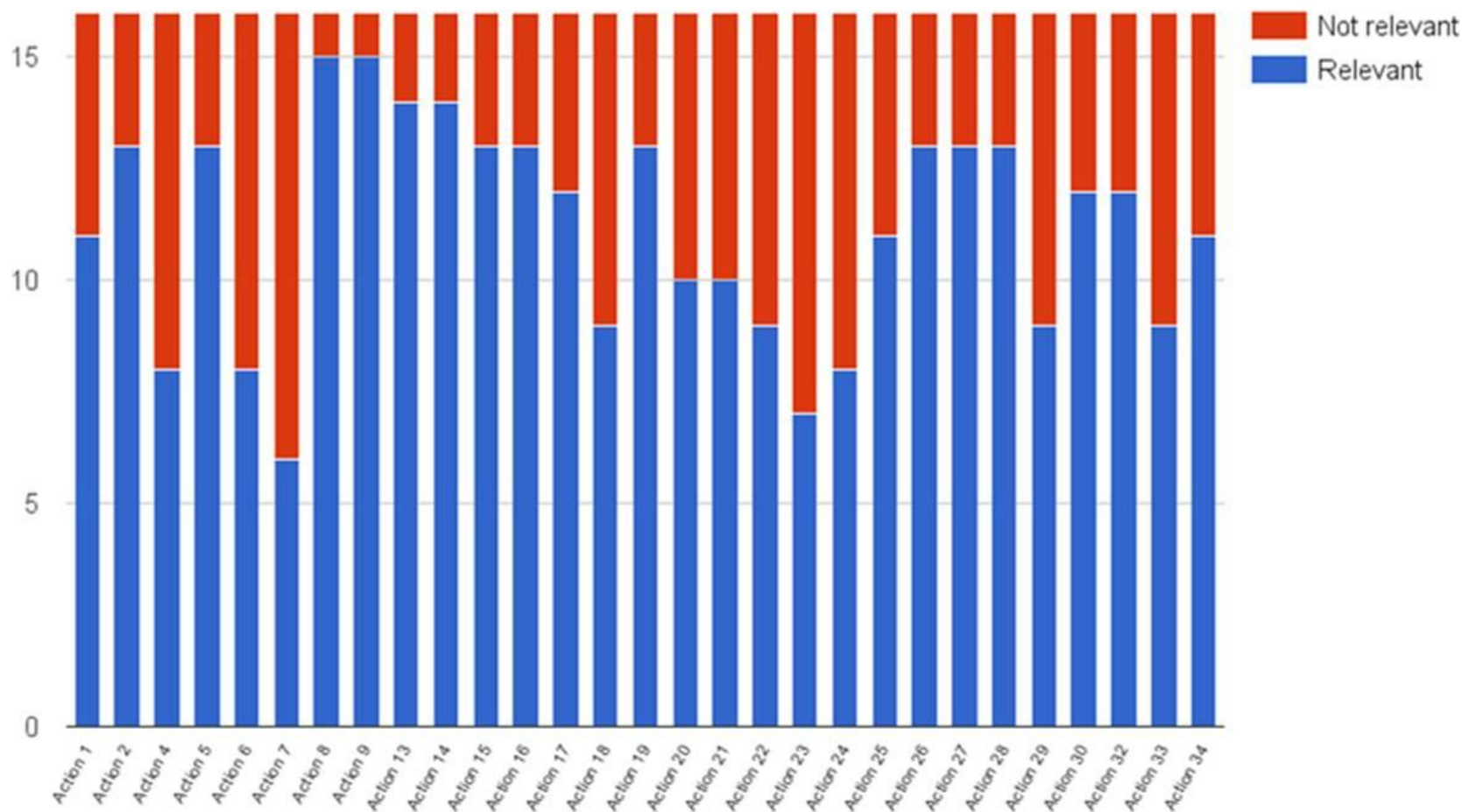
Target:
At least **50%** of properties have a Management Plan comprising a formalised framework for community participation

Integration of formalized framework for community participation into Management Plans



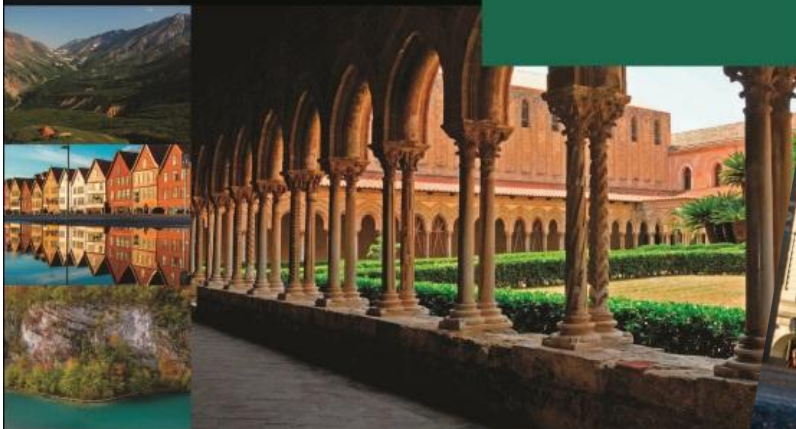
Analysis of the relevance of actions

Overall Relevance of Actions*



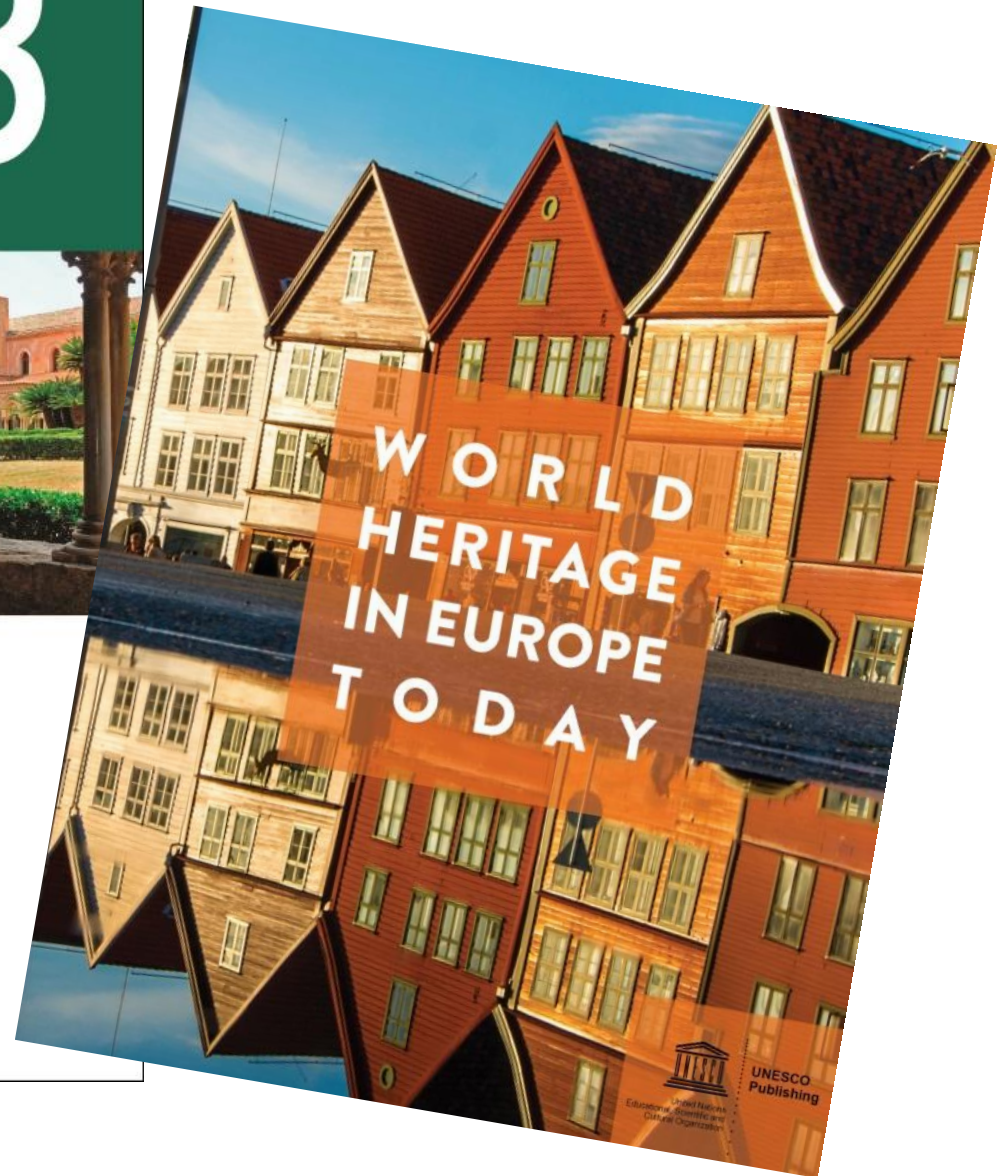
* Based on the responses of 16 States Parties

World Heritage reports 43



Understanding World Heritage
in Europe and North America

Final Report on the Second Cycle
of Periodic Reporting 2012-2015



A collection of 15 stylized, minimalist illustrations of people in various poses and outfits, scattered across a light blue background with small white dots. The characters are drawn in a simple, geometric style with flat colors and no facial features like eyes or mouths. The figures include a woman in a grey top and black pants, a man in a white shirt and black pants, a man in a dark suit and black pants, a man in a white shirt and black shorts, a woman in a white top and black skirt, a man in a grey shirt and black pants, a woman in a grey top and black skirt, a man in a grey shirt and black pants, a woman in a white top and black skirt, a man in a grey shirt and black pants, a woman in a grey top and black skirt, a man in a grey shirt and black pants, a woman in a white top and black skirt, a man in a grey shirt and black pants, and a woman in a white top and black skirt.

