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WHC/23/45.COM/10A
Paris, 4 juillet 2023
Original: English

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

10A: Report on the results of the Third Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise in Asia and the Pacific

Summary

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

Part I – Third Cycle Periodic Report in Asia and the Pacific

Chapter 1: Introduction
Chapter 2: Implementation of the World Heritage Convention by States Parties in Asia and the Pacific
Chapter 3: Implementation of the World Heritage Convention at World Heritage properties in Asia and the Pacific
Chapter 4: Monitoring Indicators for the Asia and the Pacific region
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Part II – Framework Action Plan and process
Chapter 6: Draft Action Plan (2023–2030) for the Asia and the Pacific region
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Additional information on Periodic Reporting in the Asia and the Pacific region is continuously updated at the following address: https://whc.unesco.org/en/asia-pacific/

Draft Decision: 45 COM 10A, see Part II, Chapter 7

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The successful completion of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the region of Asia and the Pacific has been made possible thanks to:

- The firm commitment of the States Parties who, through their national Focal Points and site managers, successfully completed and submitted the questionnaires for the 36 countries and 296 World Heritage properties in the region. The Asia and the Pacific region was the first to carry out this exercise entirely online, in the challenging context of the global 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 throughout an extremely difficult period.
- The Cultural Heritage Administration of the Republic of Korea, whose contributions, via the UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust, made the follow-up of this Periodic Reporting cycle possible at the Asia and the Pacific Unit of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. This contribution allowed the UNESCO World Heritage Centre to reconfigure the planned in-person workshops into a series of 16 online training workshops in 2020–21 and to ensure technical support for States Parties as they filled out the questionnaire and developed the regional Framework Action Plan.
- 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 UNESCO Field Offices in the Asia and the Pacific region for their active participation in training sessions and providing support to many States Parties across the region throughout the exercise.
- The Category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO in the region, and especially the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITR-AP, China) and the Centre on World Natural Heritage Management and Training for Asia and the Pacific Region at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII).
- 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.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The World Heritage Committee, at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017), launched the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Asia and the Pacific region following Decision **41 COM 10A**, in accordance with Article 29 of the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. The Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise in the region involved Asia and the Pacific States Parties to the Convention and the World Heritage properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, including the sites inscribed by the Committee at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019).

The reporting exercise took place from September 2020 to July 2021, and 44 States Parties to the Convention in the region of Asia and the Pacific (of which 36 have a total of 268 World Heritage properties inscribed on the World Heritage List) answered an online questionnaire divided into two sections:

- **Section I**: Implementation of the World Heritage Convention on a national level;
- **Section II**: Implementation of the World Heritage Convention on a World Heritage site level.

The 45th State Party in the region, Tuvalu, ratified the Convention on 18 May 2023 and therefore did not take part in this exercise in 2020-2022.

The 269 properties from the region – 190 cultural, 67 natural and 12 mixed – represent nearly 9% of the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.

The region is represented on the List of World Heritage in Danger with six properties (two natural and four cultural). It should be noted that three properties have been inscribed on the World Heritage List in Danger since the presentation of the Second Cycle Report to the Committee in 2012.

The key findings of the exercise can be summarized as follows:

National-Level implementation of the World Heritage Convention

By the reporting deadline, 42 out of 44 States Parties in Asia and the Pacific region validated their responses. Except for three countries in the Pacific, government institutions responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention have been directly involved in responding to the Section I of the questionnaire.

1. *Tentative lists and nominations*

Since 2012, 23 States Parties have updated their national Tentative List, to include a total of 176 new sites. At the time of writing, the total number of sites on tentative lists in Asia and the Pacific is 464 sites for 38 States Parties.

The Upstream Process has only been used by nine countries so far, but most countries have expressed their willingness to use this in the future.

Since 2012, a total of 123 nomination dossiers (85 cultural, 33 natural, 5 mixed) were submitted by 25 States Parties, concerning 99 properties. Of those, 94 dossiers were considered complete upon receipt and 61 were inscribed on the World Heritage List (for 9 withdrawals, 9 referrals and 2 deferrals).

States Parties report many perceived benefits in inscribing properties on the World Heritage List, specifically the strengthened protection and conservation of heritage and enhanced honour/prestige.

The objectives of the 2015 World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are well reflected in the nomination process, especially the promotion of environmental sustainability, socio-economic development and community participation.

2. *Synergies with other conventions, programmes and recommendations for the conservation of cultural and natural heritage*

Cooperation and synergies with other biodiversity-related and culture conventions and programmes have been strengthened. Overall, there is active communication with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) and the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Interministerial/interorganizational cooperation could nonetheless be reinforced.

Twenty-five countries responded that they are using the provisions of the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape to set policies or strategies for heritage protection, with some room for greater implementation in the Pacific and South-East.

3. *General policy development*

Since the second cycle, 18 States Parties have updated principal national legislation for the protection, conservation and presentation of their cultural and/or natural heritage. However, the applicability and relevance of this legislation could be improved for World Heritage.

Almost all the States Parties responded that the legal framework for World Heritage was adequate and sufficiently enforced, while countries in the Pacific reported lower assessments for both cultural and natural heritage. The enforcement of the legal framework could also be improved in several countries, where it would be facilitated by increasing human/financial capacities.

Many countries are implementing successful activities related to increasing the function of heritage in the life of communities, engaging with local communities and reinforcing benefit-sharing mechanisms. However, this does not appear to be formally integrated in many States Parties' policies.

Most countries have at least some degree of cooperation between principal agencies/institutions for the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of cultural and/or natural heritage, which should be encouraged and reinforced. All countries have at least some cooperation with segments of civil society, although cooperation and effective involvement of civil society in heritage processes could be reinforced.

4. *Financial status and human resources*

Most States Parties agree that the major source of funding for running costs/maintenance come from the national government. Some countries, especially in the Pacific and in Central Asia, also rely on substantial international assistance subsidies for both human and financial resources (e.g. the World Heritage Fund, international and NGO programmes, as well as bilateral support).

More than half of the States Parties have policies to allocate site revenues for the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage. The financial resources made available for heritage and their sustainability should be reinforced across the region.

Overall, States Parties consider that current levels of funding for cultural and natural heritage are inadequate or could be improved across the region, with very few exceptions. A number of countries have noted the strong negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the availability of financial resources for all aspects of heritage conservation and management.

Many States Parties have also developed successful private/public partnerships since the last cycle, notably in the framework of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) measures.

Most respondents indicate that human resources remain below the optimum level, especially in the Pacific and South Asia. Overall, the availability of human resources and qualified personnel for heritage management and conservation should be improved across the region.

5. *Capacity development*

Many countries have indicated medium to high capacity-building needs and consider it a priority. New learning areas, such as climate change or digital communication, were especially highlighted.

6. *Policy and resourcing of World Heritage properties*

Since the last cycle of Periodic Reporting, substantial progress has been made in bringing out new or revised legislation at national and site levels. A high number of countries encourage and support World Heritage properties to manage and develop visits/tourism sustainably, including through benefit-sharing mechanisms and the involvement of local communities, notably in South Asia.

Only 15 States Parties indicate that their regulatory frameworks require the use of impact assessments for development projects or programmes and are effectively implemented. In view of the upcoming publication of updated Guidelines for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, capacity building and the revision of national policies could be important action points across the region for the next period.

7. *International cooperation*

Many countries in the region have a diverse range of activities reflecting a high level of cooperation among States Parties. Thirteen countries state that they have World Heritage properties that have been twinned with others at a national or international level, although this remains a minority among the inscribed properties in the region. There are, however, various levels of cooperation among institutions and plans to set up joint activities.

Key areas for improvement identified at the national level
The two top issues identified as priority areas for improvement at the national level are: • capacity building • international cooperation **In addition, the adequacy of budgets is identified as an important area for improvement.**

Property-Level implementation of the World Heritage Convention

A total of 264 properties (including 3 transboundary sites) responded to the Section II of the questionnaire by the statutory deadline. There has been a considerable increase in the numbers of properties undergoing the exercise since the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, with the addition of 70 properties (51 cultural properties, 3 mixed and 16 natural) that fulfilled their obligations under the Convention.

1. *Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage properties*

90% of properties report that key attributes of their Outstanding Universal Values are well preserved. A small number of properties report some compromise of values, mostly in mixed properties, and a small number of attributes are reported either seriously compromised (16 attributes) or lost (1 attribute).

Just over half of the properties agree that knowledge about the values and attributes of the World Heritage property is adequate. The awareness of the existence of the property and the justification for inscription of the World Heritage List are rated fair or good by the majority of sites, including among local communities.

2. *Synergies with other conventions, programmes and recommendations*

The combination of designations enjoys growing popularity: 17 properties are listed under the Ramsar Convention (none are reported as likely to be nominated in the next three years). Twenty-two properties are listed as Biosphere Reserves, five of which are in Central Asia (six sites report their intention to apply). Nine World Heritage properties, all in North-East Asia, are listed as Global Geoparks (14 sites are expected to nominate in the next three years, spread across all subregions).

Sixty-five properties are reported to have one or more elements inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, and 40 documentary heritages under the Memory of the World Programme.

Cooperation between the authorities of such overlapping designations is reported as rather weak, unless the same authority is responsible for more than one designation. Greater cooperation would seem desirable.

3. *Factors affecting the property*

Overall, properties reported that there are fewer factors affecting them positively, compared to the factors affecting them negatively.

The three most prominent positive and negative factors affecting properties in the region are:

Cultural properties		**Mixed properties**		**Natural properties**	
Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative
Management/ Institutional factors	Local conditions affecting physical fabric	Management/ Institutional factors	Climate change/ Severe weather events	Management/ Institutional factors	Climate change/ Severe weather events
Social/Cultural use of heritage	Climate change/ Severe weather events	Social/Cultural use of heritage	Local conditions affecting physical fabric	Social/Cultural use of heritage	Biological resource use/ modification
Buildings and development	Sudden ecological/ geological events	Service infrastructures	Sudden ecological/ geological events	Service infrastructures	Pollution

The three most frequently reported positive factors are largely the same across property types and in ranking. ‘Management/Institutional factors’ is mostly cited as positive for all types of properties (almost 45%). ‘Local conditions affecting physical fabric’ is most cited as a negative factor for cultural properties, while ‘Climate change/Severe weather events’ is ranked first for natural and mixed properties, and this factor is also ranked second for cultural properties.

At the subregional level, ‘Local conditions affecting physical fabric’ is common to all subregions and ranked first as a negative factor, except in the Pacific, which is most affected by ‘Climate change and severe weather events’, followed by ‘Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species’.

Predictions regarding the state of conservation of properties over the next six years are overwhelmingly positive for all categories of properties. Overall, cultural properties show more optimism, while mixed properties, though still quite optimistic, are slightly less so. No loss of attributes is expected. Such data is consistent with the answers of respondents regarding overall positive management. Hardly any attributes are foreseen as potentially seriously compromised.

4. *Protection and management of the property*

The boundaries of properties are reported as predominantly very satisfactory for the task of maintaining the properties' OUV, and are reportedly very well known by local communities, although there are significant variations per subregion. With regard to buffer zones, 70% of properties report that they are satisfactory, while 16% refer to the need to improve them.

Most properties report that their legal framework is adequate for maintaining OUV, including authenticity and integrity, with 18% reporting basic adequacy but some deficiencies in implementation.

More work is necessary on the adequacy of the legal framework in the buffer zones and the wider setting, despite overall positive appreciations, in particular with regard to the implementation of existing legislation.

Overall, results indicate a predominance of joint management systems at several levels of governance, which is considered as good practice for long-term conservation. However, the small number of properties benefiting from traditional (1%) and community management (1%) mechanisms stands out, especially in a vast region rich in cultural and land-use diversity.

Regarding instruments, tools and policy documents, there is a need for more awareness raising and training. Further research would help identify gaps, challenges and needs across the region.

5. *Human and financial resources and management needs*

Only 35% of properties report that they enjoy adequate funding; of these 93 properties, 39 are in North-East Asia, a trend similar to the Second Cycle. Over half of the properties report an 'acceptable' budget that could be further improved to meet management needs. Current levels of funding appear to be relatively secure, with 90% of properties reporting that their funds are secure over the medium and long term, or that plans are in place to make them secure.

For most subregions, both project and running costs are largely dependent upon domestic funding, a trend that was also observed during the Second Cycle. International funding is more targeted at projects, and domestic funding more at running costs.

Most properties report that staffing levels are adequate or partly adequate to protect the World Heritage properties, with only 6% of properties reporting that they suffer from inadequate staff levels.

Nearly half of the properties report that a site-specific capacity-building programme is in place and partially implemented, and many properties in North-East Asia report that they have a 'partially' or 'fully' implemented programme.

6. *Visitor management*

In comparison with the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, the estimated annual visitor numbers show a significant decrease in 2020 due to the outbreak of COVID-19. More than 70% of the properties (192) in the APA region have experienced a decrease in annual visitors in 2020. The impact of the pandemic has varied widely among subregions, with North-East Asia remaining relatively stable and Central Asia experiencing the greatest decline in visitor numbers.

Most visits are for a few hours or a day, with only 36% of properties reporting overnight stays, many in the Pacific region, where remote or small island properties make shorter visits impractical or impossible.

Most properties report that they have an effective strategy in place to manage visitors or have a system that has some deficiencies in implementation. Most properties report controlling visitor use to avoid negative impacts on the OUV and use a visitor monitoring system, but only a small number use the UNESCO Tourism Management Assessment tool.

There is room for improvement in the monitoring of the effectiveness of tourism management. Except for South Asia and Central Asia, more than 20% of the properties in the subregions report not using tourism management as an indicator for monitoring.

7. Monitoring

There has been a 10% improvement from the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, with 68% of properties now reporting that they have a comprehensive, integrated monitoring programme. However, monitoring is not often based on key Monitoring Indicators identified to conserve the OUV.

There has been little change regarding the level of involvement in monitoring of various groups since the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting. Most monitoring is done by the World Heritage managers/staff with significant inputs by local authorities and researchers, and very few inputs from local communities, Indigenous peoples or industry professionals. Another group that could play a much bigger part in monitoring would be the visitors to World Heritage properties.

8. Priority management needs

The majority of properties (87%) report that they are managed by national and/or local government. While the reports indicate that management is generally good, some key areas need to be strengthened beyond the provision of additional funding: boundaries and buffer zones; the involvement of local communities, civil society or NGOs in property management; coordination between the administrative bodies involved in the management of the property; and the adequacy and full implementation of management system/plans to maintain the property’s OUV.

A similar number (85%) of properties report that they are guided by a statutory Management Plan or zoning plan, while 40% also have other forms of statutory or non-statutory plans, and 38% indicate that traditional ways of management that recognize local communities and other specific groups are recognized in management systems.

The use of various training materials, strategies and guidelines developed and provided by UNESCO and/or the Advisory Bodies (e.g. on nominations, risk management, capacity building, climate change) remains fairly low. National authorities may wish to consider creating versions of these guidance materials in their national languages, for which various forms of assistance may be requested, if needed.

Concerning the specific needs for professional expertise, all subregions indicate that marketing and promotion, along with capacity development and education, appear to be the most pressing perceived need. The need for environmental sustainability and community participation and inclusion is most acute in Central Asia. Respondents also report that marketing and promotion and risk preparedness are two areas where they can find the least available training opportunities.

9. *Impacts of World Heritage status*

World Heritage status appears to make a significant contribution towards other socio-economic objectives linked to the property, with little variation across types and subregions.

Key areas for improvement identified at the property level

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

- *capacity building (especially for marketing and promotion, risk preparedness, environmental sustainability and community participation)*
- *legal and management frameworks (including boundaries and buffer zones, and tourism management)*

Also at the property level**, the adequacy of budgets is identified as an important area for improvement.**

PART I – THIRD CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

1 INTRODUCTION

Through Article 29 of the Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage (hereafter ‘the World Heritage Convention’ or ‘the 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; and

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 in 2017 (Decision **41 COM 10A**, Krakow) and decided that the exercise would begin in the Asia and the Pacific region in 2020. This report presents the outcomes of this exercise.

1.1 First and Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Asia and the Pacific region

1.1.1 First Cycle: Background, outcomes and follow-up

Background

The Periodic Reporting exercise for the Asia and the Pacific region was carried out from 2002–2003

The First Cycle of Periodic Reporting was largely experimental in nature. Asia and the Pacific was the third region to submit Periodic Reports, after the Arab States and Africa. The questionnaire consisted of two sections:

- **Section I**: Application of the World Heritage Convention by the State Party, which concerned 39 States Parties to the Convention; and
- **Section II**: State of conservation of individual World Heritage properties inscribed on the List up to and including 1994, for a total of 88 properties (55 cultural and 33 natural or mixed).

The outcomes of the exercise were synthesized into the Periodic Report for the Asia and the Pacific Region (document WHC-03/27.COM/6A), which was adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 27th session at the UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, in 2003. Subsequently, two subregional programmes, 'Action–Asia 2003–2009' and 'World Heritage – Pacific 2009', were also adopted by the World Heritage Committee to strengthen the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and to enhance the conservation process at World Heritage properties in the region. The Periodic Report was published in 2004 (World Heritage Paper Series, n°12) and the summaries of the individual Periodic Reporting sections submitted by the States Parties of the region can be found at whc.unesco.org/en/activities/665/.

Based on the outcome of the First Cycle of Periodic Reporting, a series of prioritized Action Plans was developed by the States Parties at the subregional level for West and South Asia, Central Asia, and North-East Asia in order to facilitate the implementation of 'Action–Asia 2003–2009'. Among other results, an initial serial transboundary nomination of the Silk Roads was launched, focusing on China and the Central Asian republics. In addition, the Australian Funds-in-Trust was established to support World Heritage-related activities with a particular priority in the Pacific, some of which respond to the needs identified in 'World Heritage – Pacific 2009'. More details on the progress made in the follow-up of the First Cycle of Periodic Reporting can be found in documents WHC-09/33.COM/11B and WHC-10/34.COM/10C.

1.1.2 Second Cycle: Background, outcomes and follow-up

Background

Following the completion of the First Cycle of Periodic Reporting for all regions (2000–2006), the World Heritage Committee decided to launch a Periodic Reporting Reflection Year (Decision **7 EXT.COM 5**). The Committee revised the timetable for the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting by Decision **30 COM 11G**, and 2009 was identified as the launch year for the Asia and the Pacific region. Revisions to the questionnaire and necessary prerequisites for launching the Second Cycle, including the preparation of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV), were outlined in Decision **31 COM 11D**.

At its 34th session (Seville, 2009), the World Heritage Committee launched the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting for the Asia and the Pacific region by Decision **34 COM 10C**. The national Focal Points of the 41 States Parties were requested to answer Section I and the World Heritage site managers to report on the 198 properties in 31 States Parties were requested to answer Section II for the Periodic Reporting online questionnaire.

The report of the results of the exercise (WHC-12/36.COM/10A) were presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session (Saint Petersburg, 2012) and adopted by Decision **36 COM 10A.**

Outcomes and follow-up

The Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Asia and the Pacific region revealed that most issues were related to statutory matters, particularly relating to management plans, sustainable funding mechanisms, community involvement and benefit sharing, and regional cooperation. These were addressed in the two subsequent actions plans adopted in the region:

- Management plans/systems: All States Parties in Asia and the Pacific agreed that the development or improvement of a management plan of a World Heritage property is a priority. Management plans/systems should be legalized or endorsed by the States Parties and actively and effectively implemented in all properties.
- Sustainable funding mechanisms: Throughout the region, a large portion of allotted funding comes from national governments, although international funding also plays an important role in various subregions. Strengthening partnerships with the private sector

and the effective use of financial returns from tourism should be further explored across the whole region.

- Community involvement and benefit sharing: From the preparation of inventories, Tentative Lists and nomination dossiers, to the conservation and management of the properties, communities are crucial in all aspects of activities throughout the Periodic Reporting exercise.
- Regional cooperation: Throughout the implementation of Periodic Reporting, national Focal Points and site managers worked together at various workshops, which provided an opportunity to exchange information and experience on various issues related to the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

Follow-up on the Second Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise in the Asia and the Pacific region was presented to the World Heritage Committee in its subsequent Decisions: **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 Asia and the Pacific region

1.2.1 Background

The questionnaire for the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting was revised during the Reflection on Periodic Reporting (2015–2017) to incorporate several changes and improvements, including:

- an emphasis on the exercise as a State-Party-driven process;
- full integration of the sustainable development approach;
- an emphasis on synergies with other conventions and programmes relevant to World Heritage; and
- the creation of a Monitoring Indicator framework for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017).

The Committee also decided to maintain the same regional reporting order as for previous cycles, with one region reporting each year, starting with Asia and the Pacific in 2020. The Committee also recognized the three Category 2 Centres' support for a State-Party-driven exercise in the Asia and the Pacific region by setting up a Periodic Reporting coordination team, organizing regional meetings and providing targeted technical support to Asia and the Pacific World Heritage national Focal Points and World Heritage site managers, in close collaboration with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

A total of 44 States Parties to the Convention in the Asia and the Pacific region participated in the exercise, as shown in Table 1.1.

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

Subregions	States Parties
Central Asia	Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
South Asia	Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

North-East Asia	China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Republic of Korea
South-East Asia	Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam
Pacific	Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu

The 45th State Party in the region, Tuvalu, ratified the Convention on 18 May 2023 and therefore did not take part in this exercise in 2020-2022.

1.2.2 Scope

All 44 States Parties were required to complete Section I (42 questionnaires were submitted); 36 States Parties were required to complete Section II of the online Periodic Reporting questionnaire for the 268 properties inscribed on the World Heritage List as of 2020 (189 cultural, 67 natural and 12 mixed, including 12 transboundary). As ‘The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement’ is a transregional World Heritage property shared between seven States Parties, it was agreed between those concerned that the questionnaire will be completed by France when the Europe and North America region undergoes its reporting period (2022–2023), and would therefore not be included in the 268 World Heritage properties.

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 2. Synergies with other conventions and programmes, and recommendations for the conservation of the natural and cultural heritage 3. Tentative List 4. Nominations 5. General policy development 6. Inventories/Lists/Registers of cultural and natural heritage 7. Status of services for the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of natural and cultural heritage	1. World Heritage property data 2. Other conventions/programmes under which the World Heritage property is protected (if applicable) 3. Statement of Outstanding Universal Value 4. Factors affecting the property 5. Protection and management of the property 6. Financial and human resources 7. Scientific studies and research projects

8. Financial status and human resources 9. Capacity development 10. Policy and resourcing of World Heritage properties 11. International cooperation 12. Education, information and awareness building 13. Conclusions and recommended actions 14. Good practice in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention 15. Assessment of the Periodic Reporting exercise	8. Education, information and awareness building 9. Visitor management 10. Monitoring 11. Identification of priority management needs 12. Summary and conclusions 13. Impact of World Heritage status 14. Good practice in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention 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 UNESCO World Heritage Centre coordinate the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting. The UNESCO 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 Decision **43 COM 10B** (Baku, 2019).

Through its Policy and Statutory Meetings Unit, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre appointed 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 UNESCO World Heritage Centre introduced a Periodic Reporting team for the Asia and the Pacific region, and continued 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 Focal Point to coordinate the exercise at the national level. Thus, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre cooperated closely with national Focal Points, site managers and heritage stakeholders, UNESCO Regional Offices and Advisory Bodies (ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN). Category 2 Centres (C2Cs) under the auspices of UNESCO have also been invited to provide support to the Periodic Reporting exercise. Several took action in this regard, notably the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITR-AP – Shanghai/Beijing, China); the International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (HIST – Beijing, China); the Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WII – Dehradun, India); and the Global Research and Training Centre for Internationally Designated Areas (GCIDA – Jeju, Republic of Korea), a C2C under the auspices of UNESCO (see Document WHC/21/44.COM/6). The roles and responsibilities of the key actors are presented in Table 1.3 below.

Table 1.3. *Roles and responsibilities of key actors in the Periodic Reporting exercise*

States Parties
<u>National Focal Points</u> • Support site mangers and coordinate their responses on Periodic Reporting

• Consolidate national responses to the Periodic Reporting questionnaire • Complete and submit Section I of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire • Validate and submit Section II of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire
World Heritage site managers • Respond to Section II of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire • Participate in regional workshops • Prepare the requested cartographic information for the retrospective inventory
Category 2 Centres
• Support the exercise in the subregions and by assisting States Parties in the process • Organize regional meetings and provide targeted technical support to national Focal Points and World Heritage site managers, in close collaboration with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre
Advisory Bodies
• Provide technical support and guidance at workshops • Review draft retrospective SOUVs after official submission by the relevant State(s) Party(ies) • Provide capacity-building trainings
UNESCO Regional Offices and UNESCO National Offices
• Facilitate and co-organize regional meetings and workshops • Communicate with national Focal Points and World Heritage site managers during the Periodic Reporting period
UNESCO World Heritage Centre
• Provides technical support and guidance to States Parties responding to the Periodic Reporting questionnaire • Provides access to the Periodic Reporting questionnaire to national Focal Points and site managers • Manages the online platform of the Third Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise • Finalizes, in collaboration with States Parties and the C2Cs, the Third Periodic Report and Action Plan for the Asia and the Pacific region

There was close coordination between the various stakeholders during the reporting exercise. The UNESCO 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 October 2020 and July 2021, the helpdesk responded to around

800 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.

The World Heritage Centre also noted that some States Parties proactively translated some of the tools and guidance into national languages – notably, the Handbook for Site Managers was translated into Chinese, Nepali and Thai.

In order to make the Periodic Reporting data available as quickly as possible, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre published short summary reports containing the responses from the site managers and national Focal Points. As is standard practice, short summaries will be uploaded for public access on the UNESCO World Heritage Centre's website in the original language of submission; these 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 Report and Action Plan by the Committee. This means that the data collected during the Periodic Reporting exercise can 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 national Focal Points raised issues of comprehension for certain questions during the exercise.

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, more user-friendly and easier to understand (see Annex II).

- Workshops, meetings and activities

Thanks to support from the UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust, a project entitled 'Capacity Building Ahead of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in Asia and the Pacific' was approved in late April 2019, aiming to provide national Focal Points with theoretical and practical training on the Periodic Reporting exercise, using a 'training the trainers' approach so that information could be shared with site managers in each country. The project involved close cooperation between the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM), UNESCO Field Offices and C2Cs under the auspices of UNESCO in the region. Additionally, the support provided by the Republic of Korea allowed for the coordination and support of the exercise at the Asia and the Pacific Unit of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

The UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust project was initially approved to provide capacity-building support ahead of the Periodic Reporting exercise in the region. It was articulated around several three-day, in-person training workshops aimed at national Focal

Points for Periodic Reporting in the Asia and the Pacific region, initially scheduled to take place in China (Beijing and Shanghai) and New Delhi in 2020. The training workshops were to be carried out in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies of the World Heritage Committee and C2Cs under the auspices of UNESCO dealing with World Heritage in the region, including substantial in-kind support from WHITR-AP and HIST. The contents of the training workshops were discussed during meetings in 2019–2020, notably resulting in a formalized agreement reached in November 2019 between WHITR-AP and HIST to jointly host workshops in China.

However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these meetings were initially postponed, and it was eventually decided to proceed with online training activities only, using available materials supplemented by a series of specific online training sessions, as well as a dedicated online exchange platform for national Focal Points hosted on Microsoft Teams (Table 1.4).

Table 1.4. *Training sessions and implementation schedule for Periodic Reporting in the Asia and the Pacific region*

Activity	Description/Content	Date and location
Information meeting on the start of the Third Cycle exercise	To introduce the objectives of the exercise and key information for the Third Cycle during meetings and events held in the region of Asia and the Pacific in 2019–2020	20 July 2019 Baku, Azerbaijan
Periodic Reporting in Asia and the Pacific – Preparatory online consultation	Organized by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre at UNESCO field offices, C2Cs and Advisory Bodies to ensure all stakeholders have access to the resources necessary to facilitate this State Party-driven exercise	3 September 2020 Online
Start of the Reporting exercise in the Asia and the Pacific region	As per the World Heritage Committee Decision **41 COM 10A**, national Focal Points and site managers were granted access to their respective questionnaires	1 October 2020 Asia and the Pacific States Parties
Questionnaire walk-through: Section I	Following the training modules, a quick review of the different types of questions, with a focus on those requiring external input Review of lessons learned from other regions	15 October 2020 Online
Questionnaire walk-through: Section II	Following the training modules, a quick review of the different types of questions, with a focus on those requiring external input Emphasis on the information to be shared with site managers and the essential role of verification Review of lessons learned from other regions	22 October 2020 Online
Action plans: Suwon Action Plan for Asia	Review of the Suwon Action Plan: background, key outcomes Implementation strategies and known outcomes Links between Periodic Reporting action plans and World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy	29 October 2020 Online

	Thinking ahead for the next Action Plan	
Understanding Outstanding Universal Value and attributes	Review of the definition of OUV, its applicability and implications Definition of ‘attributes of OUV’ in general and in the context of the questionnaire Lessons learned from other regions	12 November 2020 Online
Synergies between UNESCO conventions and programmes	Synergies with other culture conventions Synergies with biodiversity-related conventions Assessment in the questionnaire, verification of overlap Lessons learned from other regions	19 November 2020 Online
Factors affecting the World Heritage properties	The Periodic Reporting factors: background and integration with the State of Conservation process Factors and their assessment in the questionnaire Potential negative factors and planning ahead through management mechanisms Lessons learned from other regions	3 December 2020 Online
Reporting on natural heritage	Recap: factors specifically affecting natural heritage and their assessment in the questionnaire Reporting on natural World Heritage management beyond factors World Heritage Climate Change Policy? Lessons learnt from other regions	17 December 2020 Online
Q&A session – Section I	To assist national Focal Point and World Heritage site managers on content-related and technical issues encountered in Section I of the questionnaire	14 January 2021 Online
Maps, boundaries and the retrospective inventory	All the essentials on maps, boundaries and related processes Introduction/reminder about the ongoing retrospective inventory exercise in the Asia and the Pacific region Lessons learned from other regions	28 January 2021 Online
Management plans	Requirements for management plans Managing different types of heritage Reporting on management plans in the questionnaire	11 February 2021 Online
Urban heritage and its management	Review of urban heritage in the questionnaire	25 February 2021 Online

	Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape and its application in Asia and the Pacific Heritage impact assessment in an urban context	
Q&A session – Section II	To assist national Focal Points and World Heritage site managers on technical and content-related issues encountered in Section II of the questionnaire	11 March 2021 Online
Sustainable Development Goals and World Heritage	SDG 11, Target 4 and its implications Sustainable Development Indicators and the World Heritage Convention Integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into the questionnaire and reporting Lessons learned from other regions	25 March 2021 Online
Impact assessments	Definition and format of heritage impact assessment (HIA) When to commission HIA? How to integrate OUV into assessments? ICOMOS Guidelines, IUCN Guidance Note and next steps Examples of good practice	8 April 2021 Online
Final online Regional Consultation Meeting in the framework of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Asia and Pacific Region	A final Regional Consultation Meeting aiming at presenting the outcomes of the Periodic Reporting exercise, formulating recommendations for the Regional Report, and drafting the Framework Action Plan	Day 1: General information session, from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. CET Day 2: Subregional sessions (Asia/Pacific) Pacific: Midnight to 2 a.m. CET Asia: 9 a.m. to midday CET
Implementation schedule		
45th session of the World Heritage Committee	Presentation of final outcomes (Report + Draft Action Plan) to the World Heritage Committee	
	Side event on the results of Third Cycle Periodic Reporting in the Asia and the Pacific region (tbc)	
Implementation of the Framework Regional Action Plan	Implementation of regional actions outlined in the Framework Regional Action Plan	After adoption by the World Heritage Committee
	Development and implementation of national action plans	

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

A series of 16 online training sessions were organized between September 2020 and March 2021, accompanying the national Focal Points and site managers as they fill out the questionnaire and looking in-depth at specific chapters or topics raised in the questionnaire.

The online sessions used the same 'training the trainers' approach planned for in-person workshops, whereby national Focal Points get to share their knowledge with their site managers in their own language, using the materials provided during and after each session (e.g. presentations, video recordings of the sessions and supporting documents). As soon as the technical capacity of the online platform allowed for a higher number of meeting attendees, site managers were also invited to the online training sessions that relate to Section II of the questionnaire.

National Focal Points were asked to share the knowledge they acquired at the workshop with the site managers in their respective countries. They 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.

1.2.6 Response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Asia and the Pacific is the third region to carry out the Third Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise and the first region to carry out this exercise entirely online due to the global COVID-19 pandemic in 2020–2021, including capacity-building activities, information sessions and the follow-up of the exercise as shown in Table 1.4.

1.2.7 Formulation of the questions

In common with previous regions that had taken part in the exercise, national Focal Points and site managers found that some of the questions were either difficult or very difficult to understand. Some site managers reported that some questions were often complex, which led to difficulties and misunderstandings, despite the guidance provided by the coordination team and the World Heritage Centre.

Some questions were unclear and did not always provide the degree of guidance that might be expected. For instance, many respondents did not understand the questions on public annual expenditure in Section I (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 in the Asia and the Pacific 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 States Parties concerned in order to review their answers before the final submission.

Nevertheless, some discrepancies between the two sections of the questionnaire were observed. Where necessary, the information received from the questionnaires was cross-referenced with available sources. 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 be valid for analytical purposes, data must be reliable as a prerequisite for findings and conclusions (that is, 'Will we get the same results if the exercise is repeated under similar circumstances?'). Validity, as a degree of accuracy, questions whether we are measuring what we want to measure, and the rigour with which the study was conducted in terms of design, decisions on what to measure and the care taken in conducting these measurements.

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 Asia and the Pacific region, the overall reliability and validity of the conclusions presented in this report is 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 are based excludes States Parties or properties that 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 12 transboundary and serial transnational properties in the Asia and the Pacific 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, and the affected site managers reported on the fruitful cooperation and synergies between them during the exercise. As the Third Cycle is a State Party-driven process for these types of properties, the States Parties concerned clarified and agreed between themselves which State Party would lead and be responsible for completing and submitting the relevant questionnaire. It was noted that for 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 difficult 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.

1.3 Feedback on the Third Cycle

The fact that national Focal Points were able to complete 96% (42 out of 44) for Section I and 98.5% (265 out of 269) for Section II of the Third Cycle questionnaire during a global pandemic 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; however, they indicated room for improvement, especially in terms of readability, notably that the tool should be compatible with tablets and other mobile devices. In terms of clarity of questions, the ratings were slightly lower, again suggesting room for improvement.

1.4 Overview of World Heritage properties in the Asia and the Pacific region

At the time of launching the Third Cycle, the Asia and the Pacific region comprised 44 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 Asia and the Pacific region to 278, representing 24% of the World Heritage List, in contrast to the Second Cycle, where the total number of inscribed sites in the region represented 22.1%. Following the start of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise in Asia and the Pacific in 2020, nine were inscribed in 2021, but were not included in the exercise, namely:

- Quanzhou: Emporium of the World in Song-Yuan (China)
- Dholavira: a Harappan City (India)
- Kakatiya Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Telangana (India)
- Cultural Landscape of Hawraman/Uramanat (Iran (Islamic Republic of))
- Trans-Iranian Railway (Iran (Islamic Republic of))
- Amami-Oshima Island, Tokunoshima Island, Northern part of Okinawa Island, and Iriomote Island (Japan)
- Jomon Prehistoric Sites in Northern Japan (Japan)
- Getbol, Korean Tidal Flats (Republic of Korea)
- Kaeng Krachan Forest Complex (Thailand)

It should also be noted that eight States Parties in the region do not have a World Heritage property at the time of writing:

- Bhutan and Maldives (South Asia)
- Brunei Darussalam and Timor-Leste (South-East Asia)
- Cook Islands, Niue, Samoa and Tonga (Pacific)

1.4.1 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 (https://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines/). Table 1.5 shows how these criteria were applied for properties in Asia and the Pacific at the start of the exercise:

Table 1.5. *Criteria used for determining OUV of properties in the Asia and the Pacific region*

Criterion and description	**Cultural**	**Natural**	**Mixed**	**Total inscribed**	**% of total properties in the region**	**Inscribed under single criteria**	**Inscribed under single criteria in %***
Criterion (i) 'Masterpiece of human creative genius'	58	0	2	60	21.58%	3	5%
Criterion (ii) 'Interchange of human values'	109	0	2	111	39.93%	2	1.80%
Criterion (iii) 'Exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization'	130	0	6	136	48.92%	11	8.08%
Criterion (iv) 'Outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble'	112	0	3	115	41.37%	7	6.09%
Criterion (v) 'Traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use'	28	0	4	32	11.51%	1	3.13%
Criterion (vi) 'Associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or beliefs'	70	0	8	78	28.06%	1	1.28%
Criterion (vii) 'Superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty'	0	35	10	45	16.19%	5	11.11 %
Criterion (viii) 'Major stages of Earth’s history'	0	21	5	26	9.35%	1	3.85%
Criterion (ix) 'Ongoing ecological and biological processes'	0	38	3	41	14.75%	4	9.76%
Criterion (x) 'Significant natural habitats for *in situ* conservation of biological diversity'	0	46	7	53	19.06%	11	20.75 %

* Percentage of properties in Asia and the Pacific region inscribed under the respective criterion.
** Percentage of properties in Asia and the Pacific 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 73 new properties – 53 cultural, 17 natural and 3 mixed – from the Asia and the Pacific region on the World Heritage List. These new inscriptions were based on the ten criteria that help define OUV (Table 1.5). For cultural properties, Criterion (iii) 'Exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization' remains the most applied for inscription, followed by Criterion (iv) 'Outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble'. For natural properties, the most common criteria have been Criterion (x) 'Significant natural habitats for *in situ* conservation of biological diversity' (Table 1.6).

Table 1.6. *Number of properties inscribed under each criterion in the Asia and the Pacific region since the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting (2011–2022)*

Criterion	(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)	(vi)	(vii)	(viii)	(ix)	(x)
Number of times used	8	31	40	30	12	17	8	4	7	15

1.4.2 State of conservation of World Heritage properties in the Asia and the Pacific region

Beyond collecting and updating basic statutory information, the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in Asia and the Pacific provided further information on the state of conservation of all World Heritage properties in the region, in particular those properties not currently being reviewed by the Committee (or which might, in some cases, never have been reviewed). There is an important connection between the Periodic Reporting process and the monitoring of the state of conservation of properties by the Committee, the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre. Periodic Reporting allows for a self-assessment by the national and local authorities in charge of a World Heritage property, while monitoring activities and reviews by the Committee provide an external perspective involving international experts. Independently, neither process allows for a complete and accurate overview of the situation: one is focused on the cases with known issues, while the other is a subjective self-assessment. Together, they complement each other and allow for a comprehensive understanding of the state of conservation of properties in Asia and the Pacific.

The World Heritage Committee examines the state of conservation of an average of 60 World Heritage properties in Asia and the Pacific each year. Following the First Cycle of Periodic Reporting, 335 reports were presented for the Asia and the Pacific region, covering 94 properties in 28 States Parties. The reports highlighted that priority concerns for most of the properties are:

- management systems/plans
- housing
- ground transport infrastructure
- impact of tourism/visitor/recreation
- illegal activities
- management activities
- legal framework
- land conversion
- human and financial resources
- climatic change impact

These correspond closely with the results of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting. Following the Second Cycle, available records provide the breakdown of the state of conservation reports presented to the Committee for properties in the Asia and the Pacific region.

1.4.3 List of World Heritage in Danger

The Asia and the Pacific region records six properties (two natural and four cultural) inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger (Table 1.7). Since the Second Cycle, only one property has been inscribed on the List.

Table 1.6. *List of World Heritage in Danger in the Asia and the Pacific region, as of June 2023*

Subregion	**State Party**	**World Heritage property/Year of inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger**
Central Asia	Afghanistan	Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam 2002
		Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley 2003
	Uzbekistan	Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz 2000
South-East Asia	Indonesia	Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra 2004
Pacific	Solomon Islands	East Rennell 1998
	Micronesia (Federated States of)	Nan Madol: Ceremonial Centre of Eastern Micronesia 2016

1.5 Preliminary analysis

To facilitate the work of the States Parties during the Action Plan meetings, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre prepared a concise, preliminary Summary Analysis of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in Asia and the Pacific, based on the analysis by the Periodic Reporting expert team.

This Summary Analysis presents the main outcomes of the exercise along with resulting suggestions for the drafting of the Framework Action Plan, and can be found on the following links:

Section I: https://whc.unesco.org/document/194415

Section II: https://whc.unesco.org/document/194416

2 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION BY THE STATES PARTIES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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 1 of the Third Cycle questionnaire, which was completed and submitted by the national Focal Points on behalf of their respective States Parties. In all, 42 States Parties to the Convention submitted a completed questionnaire.

2.1 Introduction

The aim of this section of the report is to present an account of the implementation of the World Heritage Convention by States Parties at the national level, based on the responses to Section 1 of the questionnaire. The analysis is limited to a short summary, but complete statistical data are provided in the annexes to this report. This section deals with the following themes that appeared in the questionnaire, using the same numbering for easy reference:

1. Introduction
2. Synergies with other conventions, programmes and recommendations for the conservation of the natural and cultural heritage
3. Tentative List
4. Nominations
5. General policy development
6. Inventories/Lists/Registers of cultural and natural heritage
7. Status of services for the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of natural and cultural heritage
8. Financial status and human resources
9. Capacity development
10. Policy and resourcing of World Heritage properties
11. International cooperation
12. Education, information and awareness building
13. Conclusions and recommended actions
14. Good practice in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention at the State Party level
15. Assessment of the Periodic Reporting exercise
16. Conclusions of Section 1

This introduction discusses the involvement of the States Parties in the Periodic Reporting (PR) process; themes 2–12 are analysed separately. Theme 13 (Conclusions and recommended actions) presents self-generated results based on responses to questions 1–12, which will also help to formulate some conclusions. States Parties were provided with the opportunity to present good practices (theme 14) in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, with a view to sharing them with the other interested parties. As in previous years, States Parties were also given the opportunity to share their experiences and comment on the PR exercise, which is analysed under theme 15. A very short conclusion drawn from the analysis, which helped to develop recommendations and the action plan, is presented in the final part of this section.

Forty-two countries have validated their responses. Except for three countries in the Pacific, government institutions responsible for the implementation of the convention have been directly involved in responding to the questionnaire. While States Parties have played a key role in responding to the questionnaire, the involvement of other entities (see **Figure 2.1**) is also evident. These include World Heritage (WH) coordinators and/or site managers in 36 countries. UNESCO National Commissions have played a major role, with involvement in 28 countries.

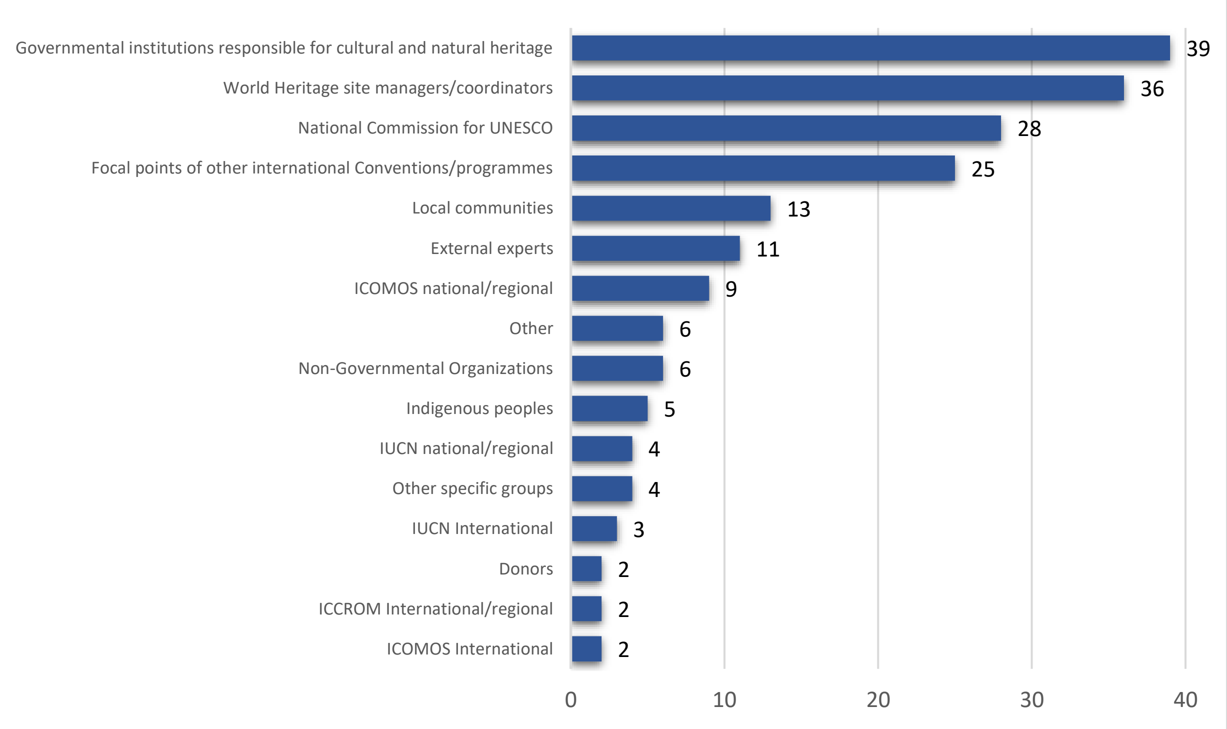


***Figure 2.1**. Q I.1.3: Groups and institutions involved in the preparation of Section I of the Periodic Report.*

2.2 Synergies with other conventions, programmes and recommendations for the conservation of cultural and natural heritage

The aim of the questions in this section was to gather information on existing and potential synergies between Multilateral Environmental Agreements, as well as other UNESCO conventions, programmes and recommendations.

According to responses, cooperation and synergies with other biodiversity-related and culture conventions and programmes have been strengthened. Overall, there is active communication with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention on Wetlands), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) and the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Yet, the extent of cooperation among Focal Points varies from country to country. Several countries reported that they have good communication channels among the Focal Points, either on a regular basis or as needed. Some countries reported that there is no established communication mechanism. Needs for strengthening interministerial cooperation among conventions/programmes, as well as between nature and culture, have been identified.

There are increasing cases of multidesignation with Ramsar Sites (five additional sites since PR-2 and five potential sites in the pipeline), Biosphere Reserves (eight additional sites and nine potential sites) and UNESCO Global Geoparks (two additional sites and five potential sites). Those numbers were indicated by the respondents at the time of completion of the questionnaires and do not reflect the newly designated Biosphere Reserves as of June 2022.

The vast majority (93%) of the World Heritage Focal Points are involved in the revision and implementation of national cultural and natural heritage strategies, policies and action plans, beyond specific issues related to World Heritage.

Twenty-five countries responded that they are using the provisions of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape to set policies or strategies for heritage protection. These include all the countries in Central and North-East Asia but the number is lower in the Pacific (30%) and South-East Asia (45%).

2.3 Tentative List

The aim of the questions related to the Tentative List was to draw the attention of the States Parties to the List's importance and to gather information on the process of its preparation, including the tools and guidance used. Additional aims were to explore synergies with other Conventions, as well as sustainability issues in line with the 2015 Policy Document for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention.

Figure 2.2.2 shows that 35 countries have used the Resource Manual 'Preparing World Heritage Nominations' in the process of developing their Tentative Lists. Thematic studies by ICOMOS and IUCN have been consulted by 31 and 25 countries, respectively. Twenty countries have used meetings to harmonize the Tentative List as suggested in the Operational Guidelines, which is an interesting trend.

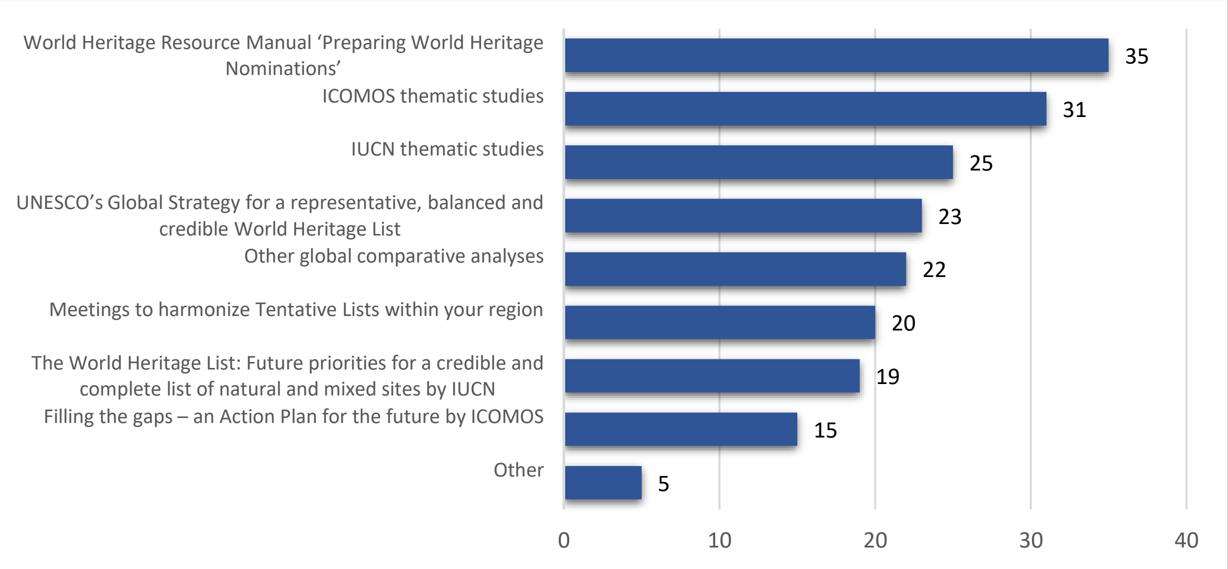


Figure 2.2*. Q I.3.1: In the process of preparing your Tentative List, did you use any of the following tools to make a preliminary assessment of the potential Outstanding Universal Value?*

The Upstream Process is another tool that can be used by the States Parties, but so far only nine countries have used the opportunity, although most countries have expressed their willingness to use this in the future.

One of the questions posed to the States Parties was whether the sites already registered on the Tentative List have the potential to generate dialogue and cooperation among States Parties and different communities. According to responses, 46% of the countries agreed, and 29% of the countries in the region suggest there is potential for dialogue among communities (see **Figure 2.3**). The transboundary nomination of the 'Cold winter deserts of Turan' will be included when updating the Tentative Lists of three countries: Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

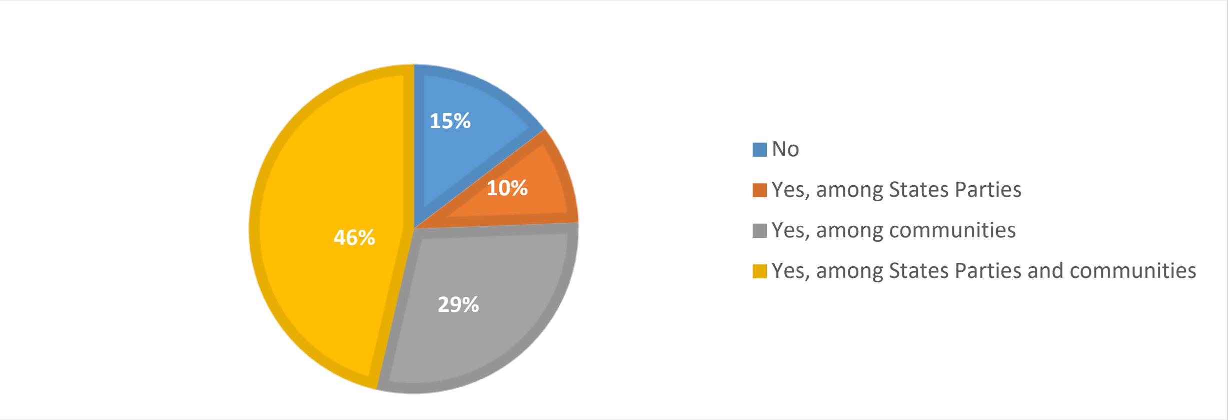


Figure 2.3*. Q I.3.4: Do any of the sites registered on your Tentative List have the potential to generate dialogue and cooperation among States Parties and different communities?*

The involvement of various stakeholder groups in the preparation of the Tentative List was another question raised. According to responses, a wide range of groups were consulted (see **Figure 2.4**).

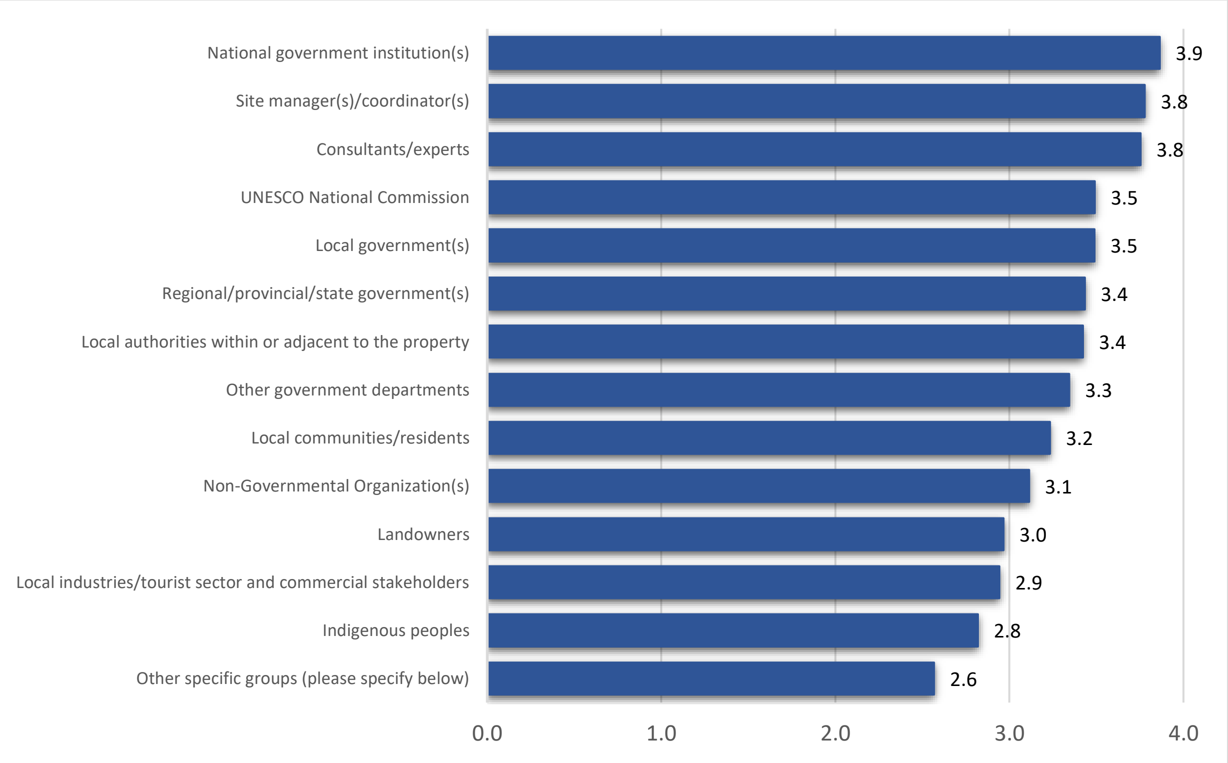


Figure 2.4. *Q I.3.6: Please rate the level of involvement of the following (if applicable) in the preparation of the Tentative List (1 = None; 2 = Poor; 3 = Fair; 4 = Good).*

In the preparation of the Tentative List, 43% of the countries in the region have explicitly considered and effectively implemented a gender-balanced contribution and participation (100% in North-East Asia). Another 24% of the countries have explicitly considered and effectively implemented a gender-balanced contribution and participation but with some deficiencies.

A total of 38% of the countries have benefited from other international designations, either under other UNESCO conventions/programmes or under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the highest number being in North-East Asia (80%).

There was no question related to the use of the Sustainable Development Policy. In the comments section, a suggestion was made for the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies to regularly update the thematic research reports on international comparative analysis and provide more reports on new topics pertinent to natural heritage.

2.4 Nominations

The aim of the questions in this section was to gather information on the process of nominating properties for inscription on the World Heritage List, the tools and guidance used, as well as the application of the 2015 World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy.

The results show that many entities are involved in the preparation of nomination dossiers – an encouraging trend – with national governments playing a key role. However, the engagement of Indigenous groups seems relatively low.

A total of 86% of the countries in the region have maintained a high level of gender balance in the preparation of the most recent nomination dossiers. This reaches 100% in Central and North-East Asia.

States Parties list many perceived benefits (see **Figure 2.5**) in inscribing properties on the World Heritage List, the greatest of these being the strengthened protection and conservation of heritage and enhanced honour/prestige.

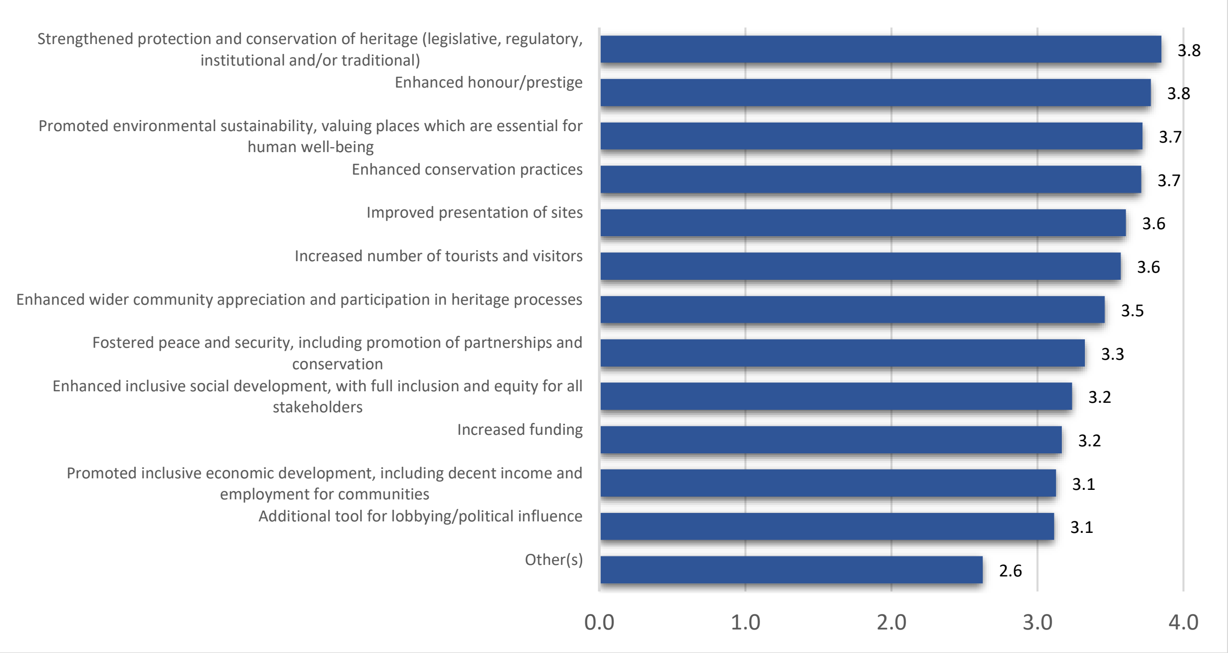


***Figure 2.5**. Q I.4.3: Please rate the perceived benefits in your country of inscribing properties on the World Heritage List (1 = None; 2 = Limited; 3 = Some; 4 = High) (see also Table 3.13).*

There is a very high rating for achieving the objectives of the 2015 World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in listing a site. According to responses, listing contributes significantly to social, economic and environmental dimensions of the Sustainable Development Policy but less so in ensuring conflict prevention.

In the final comments to this question, it is noted that the issue of the buffer zone needs more understanding in the nomination preparation process.

2.5 General policy development

Questions in the general policy development section focused on the specific requirements of Article 5 of the World Heritage Convention and on the implementation of the 1972 Recommendation concerning the Protection, at National Level, of the Cultural and Natural Heritage. Particular attention was drawn to the legal framework for the protection, conservation, and presentation of the cultural and/or natural heritage and its effectiveness. Questions were also asked about whether the provisions of the 2015 World Heritage and Sustainable Development Policy are being put into practice.

Fourteen countries have validated the existing principal national legislation for the protection, conservation, and presentation of their State Party's cultural and/or natural heritage, while 18 countries have updated them. In response to a question, States Parties mentioned that they have also enacted many new items of legislation. These could be useful additions, but their applicability and usefulness need to be explored further.

Questions were asked about the adequacy of the legal framework for the identification, conservation and protection of the State Party's cultural and/or natural heritage. These were responded to positively by almost all the States Parties, with the highest score being received from North-East Asia for both cultural and natural heritage (Table 2.1). However, the Pacific region scores relatively low in both cultural and natural heritage sectors.

Table 2.1. *Adequacy of the legal framework for the identification, conservation and protection of the State Party's cultural and/or natural heritage*

Region/Subregion	Pre-filled information
Asia and the Pacific Region	**33.3**
Central Asia	16.7
North-East Asia	60.0
Pacific	38.5
South Asia	28.6
South-East Asia	27.3

The question regarding whether the legal frameworks can be enforced adequately was answered by the States Parties with responses ranging from 'adequate' (4) to 'could be strengthened' (3) as in **Figure 2.6**. The lack of capacity (human/financial) is cited as the main problem, but several countries have referred to their own specific issues.

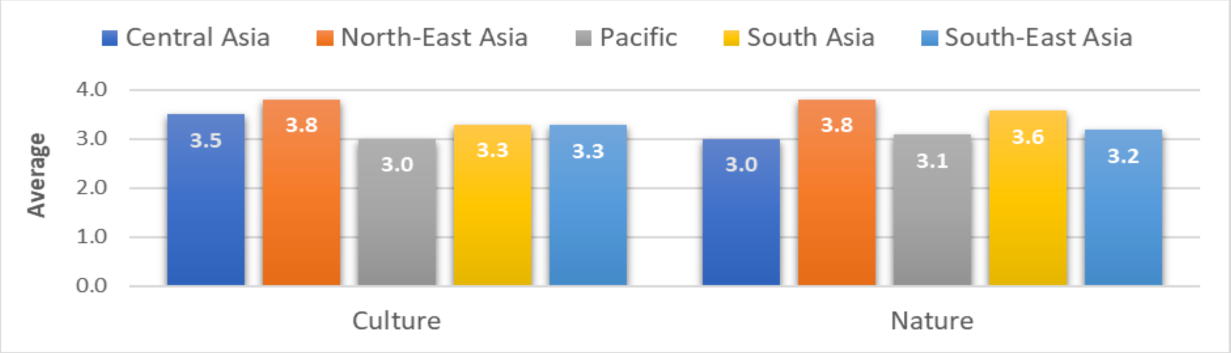


Figure 2.6*. Q I.5.7.1: Can the legal framework (i.e. legislation and/or regulations) for the conservation and protection of the State Party's cultural and/or natural heritage be enforced? (1 = No framework; 2 = No effective capacity; 3 = Existing capacity can be strengthened; 4 = Adequate).*

The impact of national policies on giving cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of communities was a question posed to the States Parties. According to responses, two countries in the Pacific have no specific policies, while others achieve this on an ad hoc basis. Several countries have specific policies with deficiencies. When considering the entire region, 16 countries have specific policies that are effectively implemented for the culture sector and 17 countries for the nature sector. All countries in North-East Asia have specific policies and these are implemented effectively. Several interesting activities focusing on engaging local communities and promoting economic activities are mentioned by some States Parties.

A very high percentage of States Parties integrate the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage as a strategic element in national sustainable development policies and strategies as per the different dimensions listed in UNESCO's Sustainable Development policy (see **Figure 2.7**).

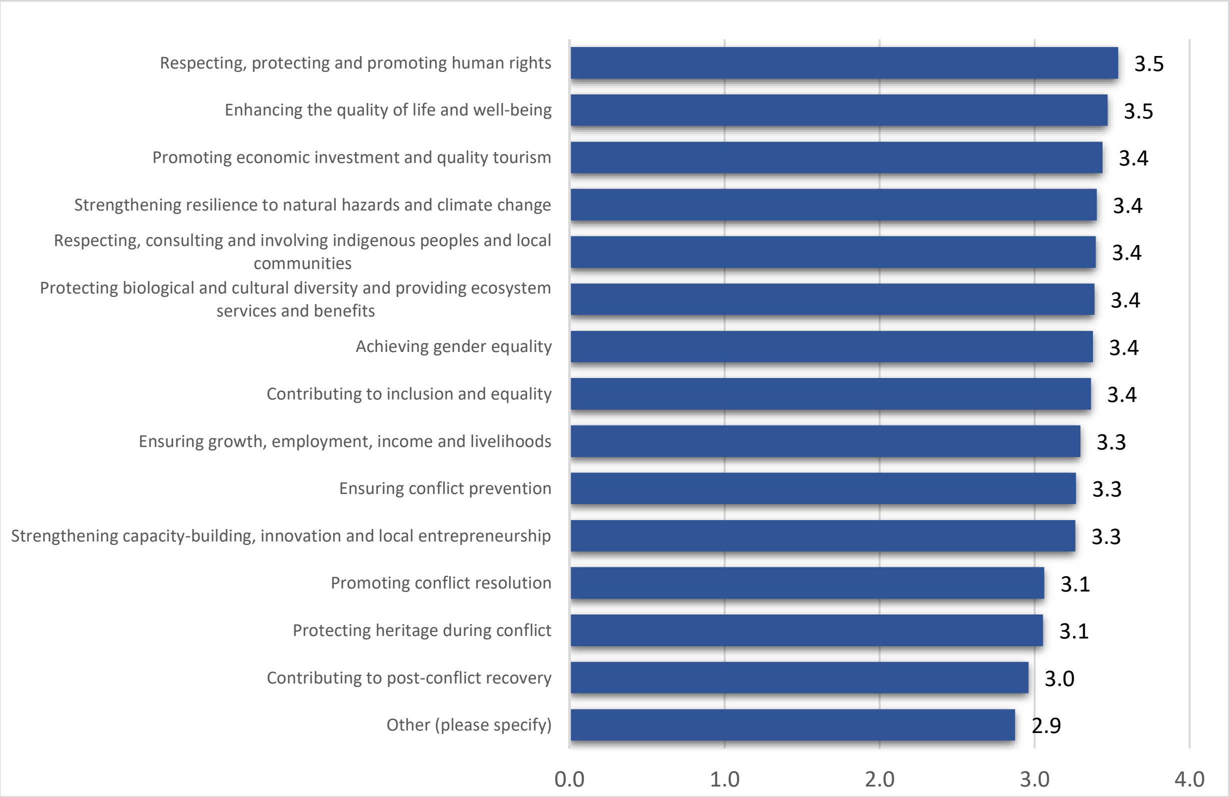


Figure 2.7*. Q I.5.11.1: How effectively does your State Party integrate the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage as a strategic element in national sustainable development policies and strategies?*

In relation to the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL), adopted in 2011, 50% of the States Parties in the region have initiated various activities.

A total of 31% of the States Parties in the region effectively integrate conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage into comprehensive/larger-scale planning programmes, with 43% of the countries having policies but with some deficiencies in implementation (see **Figure 2.8**). North-East Asia is leading the way, with all countries having policies that are effectively implemented.

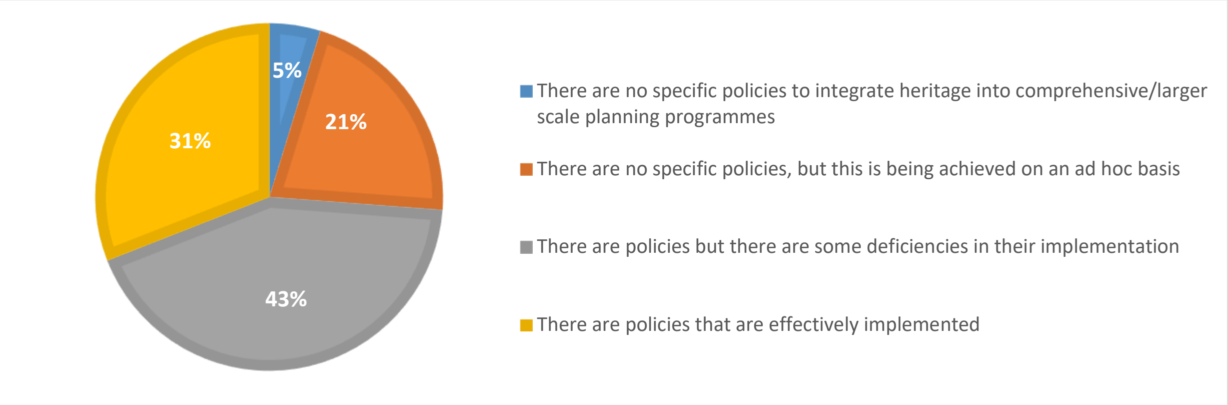


Figure 2.8. *Q I.5.13.1: How effectively does the State Party integrate the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage into comprehensive/larger scale planning programmes?*

Questions were raised about the use of the following in formulating national policies or strategies for the protection of the cultural and natural heritage: the Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties; the Strategy for Reducing Risks from Disasters at World Heritage Properties; the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy; and the World Heritage Sustainable Development Policy. All counties in North-East Asia seem to be using all these policies, while all countries in Central Asia using two of them. The Pacific region appears to be the lowest ranked in the use of these policies (**Figure 2.9**).

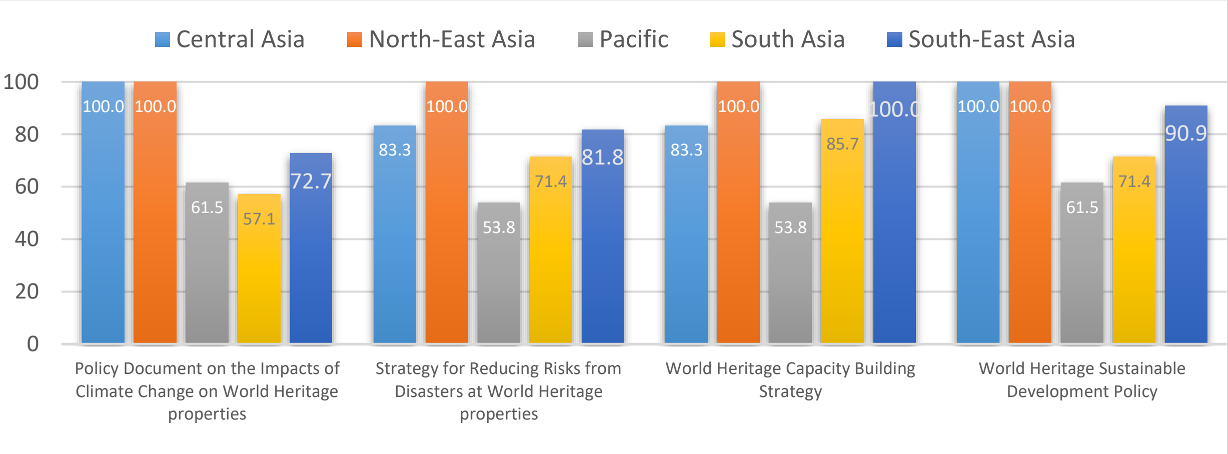


Figure 2.9. *Q I.5.14.1: Is your State Party using policies and strategies agreed by the World Heritage Committee or the World Heritage General Assembly to set national policies or strategies for the protection of the cultural and natural heritage?*

Questions were asked about the coordination and integration of multilateral agreements and programmes and World Heritage policies and strategies into the development of national policies for the conservation, protection and presentation of cultural and natural heritage. A total of 48% of the countries suggest there is adequate coordination and integration, while 45% suggest that there is limited coordination and integration. This former group includes all the North-East Asian countries. There are several interesting elementsof policies listed which are worth exploring under ‘good practices’.

2.6 Inventories/Lists/Registers of cultural and natural heritage

The aim of these questions was to draw attention to the importance of inventories/lists/registers of cultural and natural heritage of national significance, and to gather information about their status and the processes used to compile them. Inventories of cultural and natural heritage of national significance form the basis for the identification of possible World Heritage properties.

States Parties manage their inventories mainly at the national level, but some also at regional level and, on a slightly smaller scale, at the local level. North-East Asian countries have completed inventories with a process in place to continuously update them. According to responses, most countries have advanced inventory processes, while one country in the Pacific currently is without a process in place.

Responses to the question on whether inventories/lists/registers are adequate in capturing the diversity of cultural and natural heritage vary from score 3 (adequate to capture some of the diversity) to 4 (adequate to capture the full diversity). All countries in North-East Asia firmly believe that inventories can capture full diversity (**Figure 2.10**).

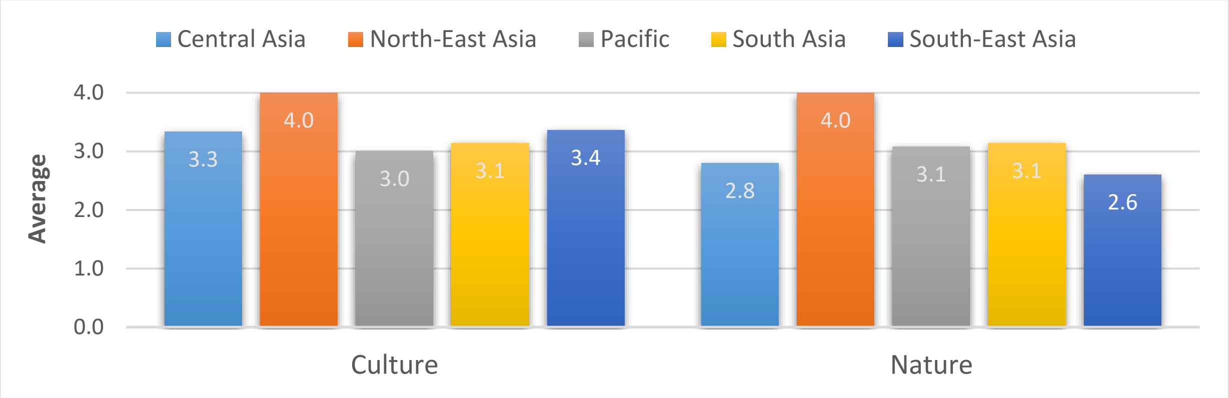


***Figure 2.10**. Q I.6.2: Are inventories/lists/registers adequate to capture the diversity of cultural and natural heritage of your State Party?*

Responses to the question about how often inventories/lists/registers are used to protect the identified cultural and natural heritage range between ‘sometimes used’ and ‘frequently used’ by most countries. Here too, North-East Asian countries use inventories/lists/registers frequently for the protection of heritage. Most countries use their inventories to identify sites to be included in the Tentative List.

In addition to heritage practitioners and academic institutions, it appears that States Parties involve communities and Indigenous groups in the identification of natural and cultural heritage for inclusion in inventories/lists/registers, with all countries in North-East Asia leading the way on this. Involvement of various groups in nature and culture is generally equal, with a slightly lower rating for the nature sector in South-East Asia. Six countries have stated that they plan to involve communities and Indigenous groups in the future.

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

The aim of this set of questions is to gather information on services within the territories of each State Party for the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage, and on cooperation between the stakeholders involved.

A total of 52% of the countries have effective cooperation, while 43% have some cooperation between principal agencies/institutions for the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of cultural and/or natural heritage. Two countries (5%) in the Pacific say they have limited cooperation (see **Figure 2.11**). This level of cooperation is similar when working with other government agencies (e.g. those responsible for tourism, defence, public works, fisheries, etc.).

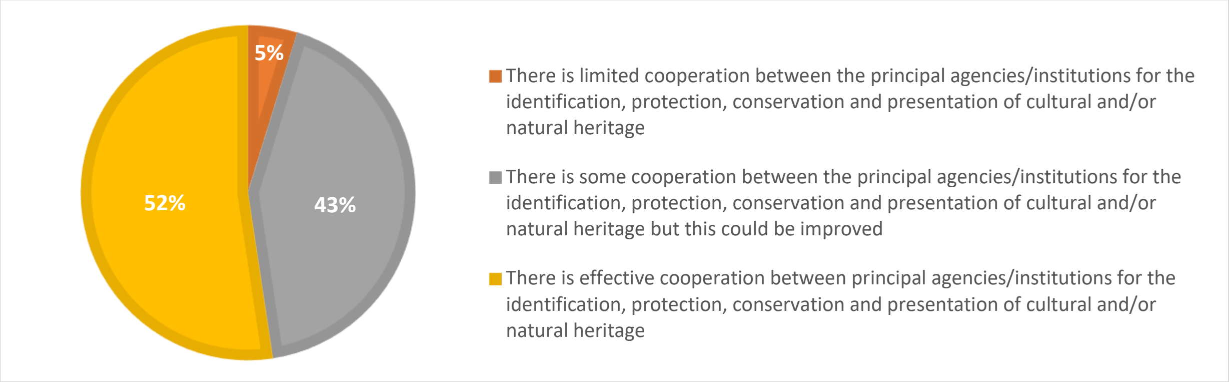


***Figure 2.11**. Q I.7.1: How effectively do the principal agencies/institutions responsible for cultural and/or natural heritage cooperate in the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of this heritage?*

There are different levels of government (central, provincial, local, etc.) in almost all countries. In general, cooperation exists between these different levels for the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of cultural and/or natural heritage but some countries report some deficiencies. North-East Asian countries report that they have fully effective systems for cooperating with different levels of government.

According to responses, different levels of government seem to have good cooperation with all segments of civil society, while some countries say they have effective cooperation in the identification, conservation, protection and presentation of cultural and natural heritage (14 and 12, respectively).

2.8 Financial status and human resources

This section aims to gather information on the availability and adequacy of financial resources for the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage in relation to Article 5 of the World Heritage Convention.

Most of the States Parties agree that the major source of funding for running costs/maintenance is national government, while there are indications that some funds come from provincial, state and local governments (see **Figure 2.12**).

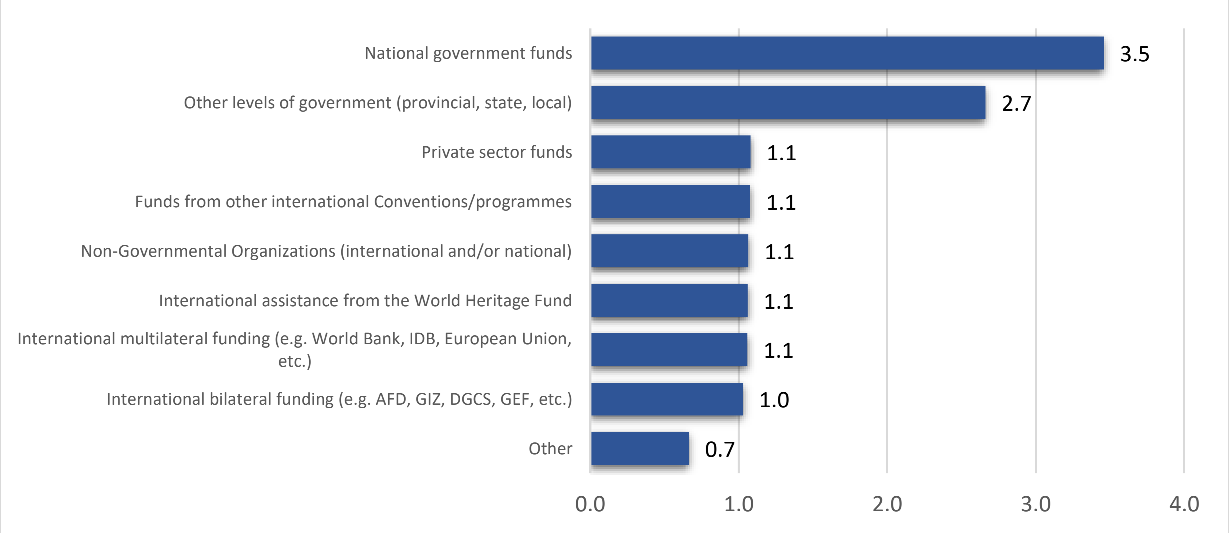


***Figure 2.12**. Q I.8.1: Please assess the relative importance of the following sources of funding for the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage in your country.*

A significant number of countries report that they have policies to allocate site revenues for the conservation and protection of cultural and natural heritage (26 and 30, respectively), which is a very interesting trend. Also of interest is the fact that all but two countries in Central Asia have adopted such a policy.

In answering a difficult question (see **Figure 2.13**) about whether the current budget for culture and nature is sufficient, the overall indication is that current levels of funding are inadequate or could be improved. Three countries in the region have stated that they have adequate funds for both sectors.

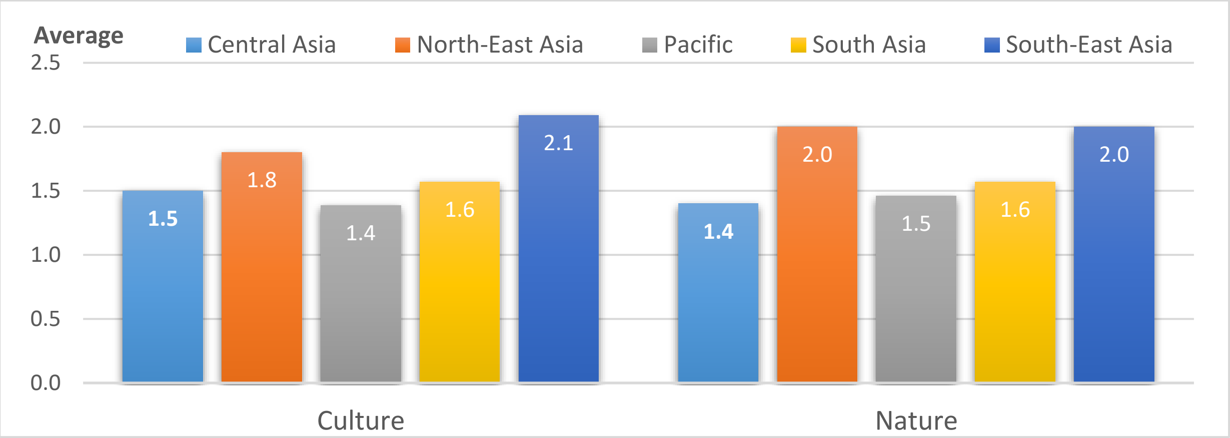


***Figure 2.13**. Q I.8.3: Do you consider that the current budget is sufficient to conserve, protect and present cultural and natural heritage effectively?*

The question regarding the percentage of the total annual public expenditure that is spent on cultural and natural heritage at each governmental level is not well responded to, but from the responses received, this percentage remains at 1% or less. The majority (over 50%) of this funding comes from central government, while lesser amounts come from regional and local governments (see **Figure 2.14**).

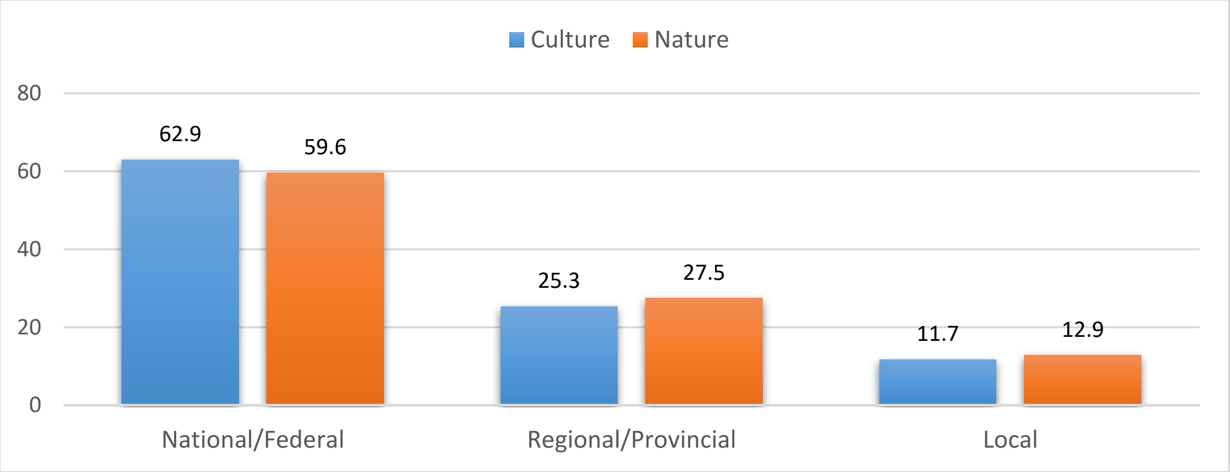


***Figure 2.14**. Q I.8.5: Please estimate the percentage of the total annual public expenditure that is spent on cultural and natural heritage at each governmental level.*

Eleven countries state that they have adequate human resources to conserve, protect and present heritage for the culture sector, and eight countries state the same for the nature sector, which is remarkable. Only a few countries responded that human resources are inadequate but the majority state that these resources remain below the optimum level.

According to general comments received, some countries will make active efforts to seek more central and local fiscal funds, as well as other financial resources, for the conservation of World Heritage properties and to increase fiscal budgets and strengthen human resources.

2.9 Capacity development

Questions in this section aim to gather information on capacity building in heritage conservation, protection, presentation and management, in line with the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (2011). Questions were also raised about the integration of different aspects of the Policy for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention in capacity-building activities.

When asked to prioritize the capacity-building needs related to learning areas listed in the questionnaire, many countries considered these needs to be medium or high. Gender balance in both nature and culture is low, averaging 2.8.

Four audience groups are identified in the questionnaire, namely: administrators and government bodies at all levels; communities, Indigenous peoples, landowners, local businesses, other social groups etc.; universities, NGOs etc.; and heritage practitioners. States Parties were asked to prioritize their capacity-building needs in relation to a long list of learning areas. Fourteen themes are considered low- or no-priority, and the rest of the themes are considered medium- or high-priority.

States Parties use the Strategy for different purposes at different scales. According to responses, 28 countries use it for the implementation of capacity building at the national level; 22 countries for the implementation of capacity building at the regional/subregional level; 29 countries to identify capacity-building priorities; 17 countries for fundraising to support capacity-building programmes; 32 countries for raising awareness about the need to conserve and manage cultural and natural heritage. The Pacific countries do not seem to use it for any of the listed purposes. Some countries are using it only for raising awareness about the need to conserve and manage cultural and natural heritage, while some use it for fundraising to support capacity-building programmes.

Responses to one of the most pertinent questions, whether States Parties have a national strategy (which was one of the expectations of the Capacity Building Strategy) are not encouraging. Three countries have no strategy, 11 countries have an ad hoc approach, 17 countries have national strategies with some deficiencies, and 11 countries have national strategies that are effectively managed (see **Figure 2.15**) .

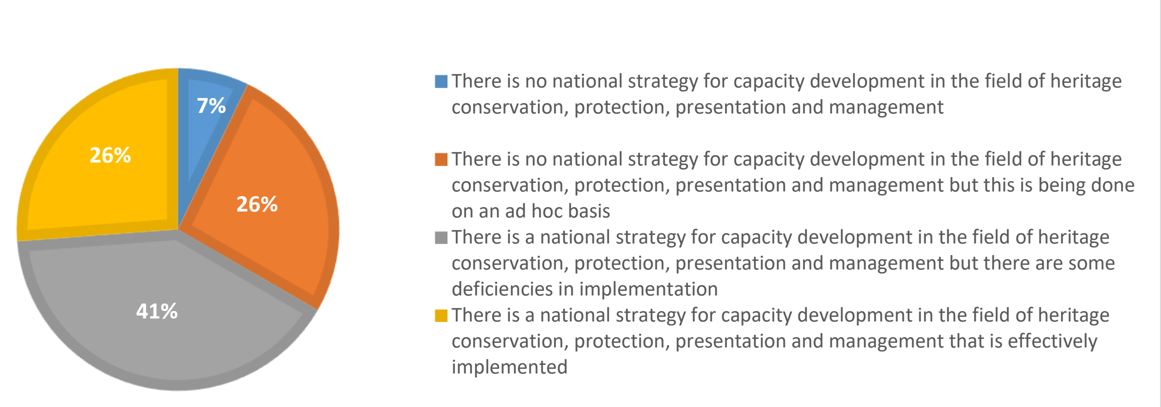


***Figure 2.15**. Q I.9.4: Does the State Party have a national training/educational strategy to strengthen capacity development in the field of heritage conservation, protection, presentation and management?*

States Parties have proposed new learning areas, such as climate change, that should be considered in action plans.

2.10 Policy and resourcing of World Heritage properties

The aim of this set of questions is to gather information on specific legislation, policies and measures for the protection, conservation, presentation and management of World Heritage.

In addition to the principal legislation mentioned in Section 5 (5.1) of the questionnaire, States Parties were asked if there were other pieces of legislation specific to the protection, conservation, presentation and management of World Heritage. Looking at the list, it appears that since 2000 there has been substantial progress in bringing out new legislation, but whether this is brand new or revisions to existing laws is not clear.

States Parties were asked to describe if they use legislation and/or regulations at other levels that contribute to the identification, conservation and protection of their cultural and natural heritage. Other levels are not described sufficiently, therefore the outcome is not very useful. However, several countries have mentioned the use of tourism law and SDG initiatives to promote conservation.

The question about the adequacy of services/capacities provided by existing agencies/institutions for the protection, conservation, presentation and management of World Heritage properties in one's own country generated mixed reactions. One country stated there is no capacity; 12 countries have some capacities but with some deficiencies; 15 countries have capacities but with significant deficiencies; and 14 countries have adequate capacity (see **Figure 2.16**).

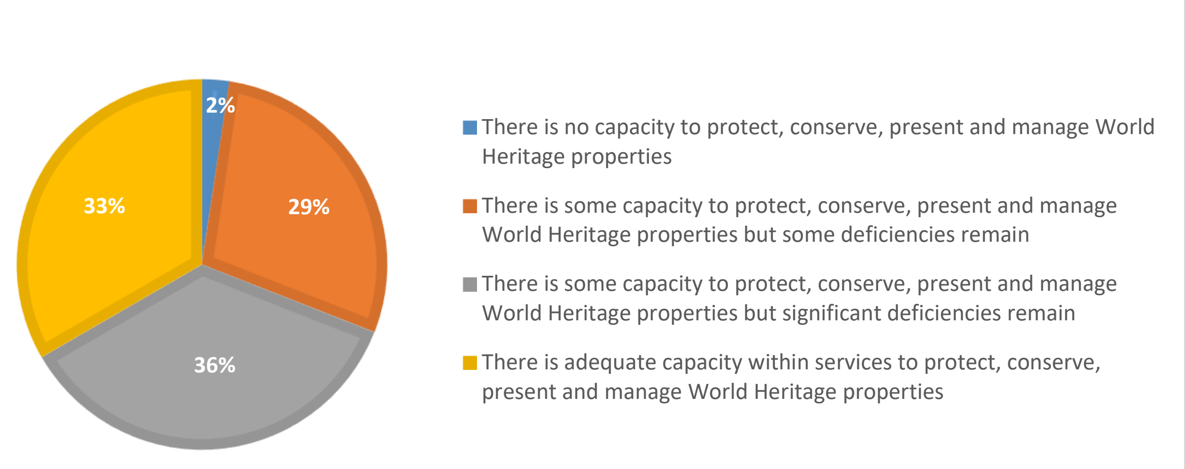


***Figure 2.16**. Q I.10.3: Are the services provided by agencies/institutions adequate for the protection, conservation, presentation and management of World Heritage properties in your country?*

A high number of countries encourage and support World Heritage properties to manage and develop visitation/tourism sustainably by various means listed in the questionnaire, such as providing financial resources and incentives for sustainable tourism related activities; developing policies and/or requiring sustainable tourism strategies to be developed; providing capacity building for site managers; facilitating network cooperation and stakeholder engagement through the development of governance structures, or other mechanisms for cooperation.

Additional information or clarification about how the State Party supports sustainable tourism planning and management at a property level was provided in some responses. In New Zealand, the Conservation Act Planning Framework sets out general and site-specific policies and objectives that guide decisions within the three World Heritage Areas – including decisions relating to tourism. Concessions are required for commercial use of the conservation land.

In Bangladesh, eco-tourism activities in the Sundarbans are regulated by the approved Tourism Policy for the Sundarbans. The policy states in detail the regulations for eco-tourism within the property. Bangladesh adopted and followed the National Tourism Policy 2010 under the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism.

All natural World Heritage sites in India are National Parks/Tiger Reserves, which are required to implement the Ecotourism Guidelines for the sites mandated by the Government of India.

Regarding impact assessment requirements (see Figure 2.17), 24 States Parties suggest that regulatory frameworks that require the use of impact assessments for programmes or development projects have been implemented, but that these need improvements. Fifteen countries have regulatory frameworks that require the use of impact assessments for programmes or development projects, and these are effectively implemented. Some countries list several assessment requirements/ tools.

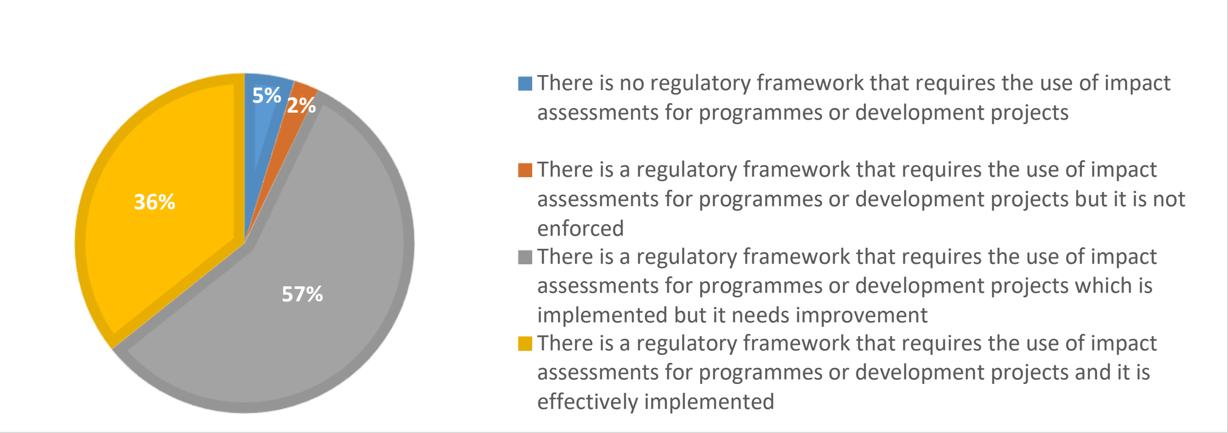


Figure 2.17*. Q I.10.6: Does the State Party require the use of impact assessments for programmes (e.g. strategic environmental assessments) or development projects (e.g. environmental impact assessments, heritage impact assessments) that may have an impact on the World Heritage property, its buffer zone and the wider setting?*

The question about the availability of a national capacity-building strategy for World Heritage conservation, protection, presentation and management is repeated here but the results are marginally different (see Figure 2.15). The responses are that 5 countries have no strategy; 12 countries have no strategy but use an ad hoc approach; 14 countries have strategies with some deficiencies; and 11 countries have strategies that are fully implemented.

Twenty-two countries state that there is institutional capacity for research, but improvements are needed, while six countries state there is capacity to conduct research. However, ten countries respond that they have no institutional capacity, but research is being conducted in collaboration with partners (see Figure 2.18).

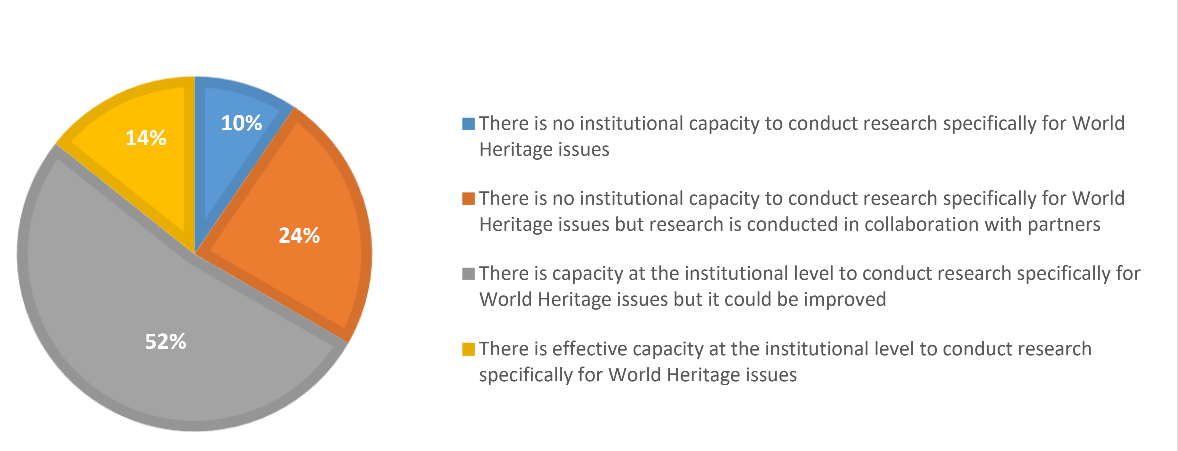


Figure 2.18*. Q I.10.9: Does the State Party have the institutional capacity to conduct research specifically for World Heritage issues?*

Twenty-five countries have helped to establish national, public and private foundations or associations for raising funds and receiving donations for the protection of World Heritage.

Responses note that research and funding tend to be place-specific. A clear example of this is the Long-Term Sustainability Reef 2050 Plan established in 2015 (Great Barrier Reef). Information can be found here: http://www.environment.gov.au/marine/gbr/long-term-sustainability-plan.

In New Zealand, it is noted that ‘three World Heritage Areas are managed in conjunction with other public conservation areas under a management framework that meets World Heritage Policy expectations, and it is not always possible to isolate out the provisions of specific relevance to World Heritage. The Department is moving to a partnership model where partners may help fund aspects of conservation work – some of which may fall within our World heritage Areas – e.g. pest control, threatened species management’.

In India, the National Culture Fund (NCF), under the Ministry of Culture, has been constituted to raise funds under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), thus promoting public-private partnership. This is in addition to regular funds being provided by the Ministry of Culture for the conservation and management of World Heritage properties under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Agencies such as the Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKTC) have also been instrumental in partnering with ASI for the conservation of World Heritage properties.

In Singapore, government agencies partner with relevant public and private stakeholders to protect and promote natural and cultural heritage. These partnerships include fundraising efforts, events organization and volunteer support for natural and cultural heritage sites. However, the agencies do not establish public and private foundations or associations specifically to raise funds or receive donations for the aforementioned purpose.

2.11 International cooperation

The aim of this section is to gather information on cooperation with other States Parties in the field of cultural and natural heritage.

Many countries in the region have a diverse range of activities, reflecting a high level of cooperation among States Parties (see Figure 2.19).

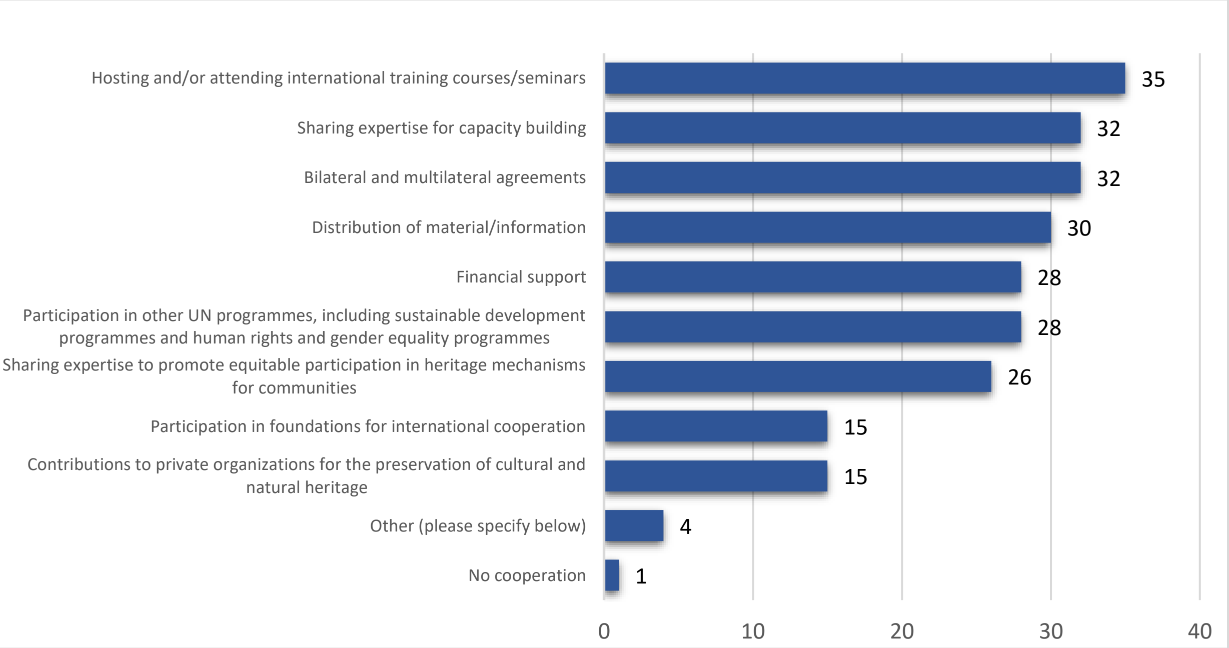


***Figure 2.19**. Q 11.1: Has the State Party promoted international cooperation and the establishment of cooperation mechanisms for heritage since the last Periodic Report?*

Thirteen countries state that they have World Heritage properties that have been twinned with others at a national or international level, but the majority (29) answer was that there were no such activities. There are, however, various levels of cooperation among institutions and plans to set up joint activities.

2.12 Education, information and awareness building

The aim of this section is to gather information on steps taken to raise the awareness of decision-makers, property owners and the general public, and in particular young people, about the protection and conservation of cultural and natural heritage.

Twelve countries have no specific strategies, but do this in an ad hoc manner. The majority of countries (17) have strategies, but with some deficiencies in implementation. Eleven countries in the region have strategies that are being implemented effectively.

States Parties were asked to rate the level of general awareness of the different groups about World Heritage in their own countries. Although a difficult question to answer, there is a good awareness among many of the groups listed (see Figure 2.20), except that it remains low with the private sector and Indigenous groups.

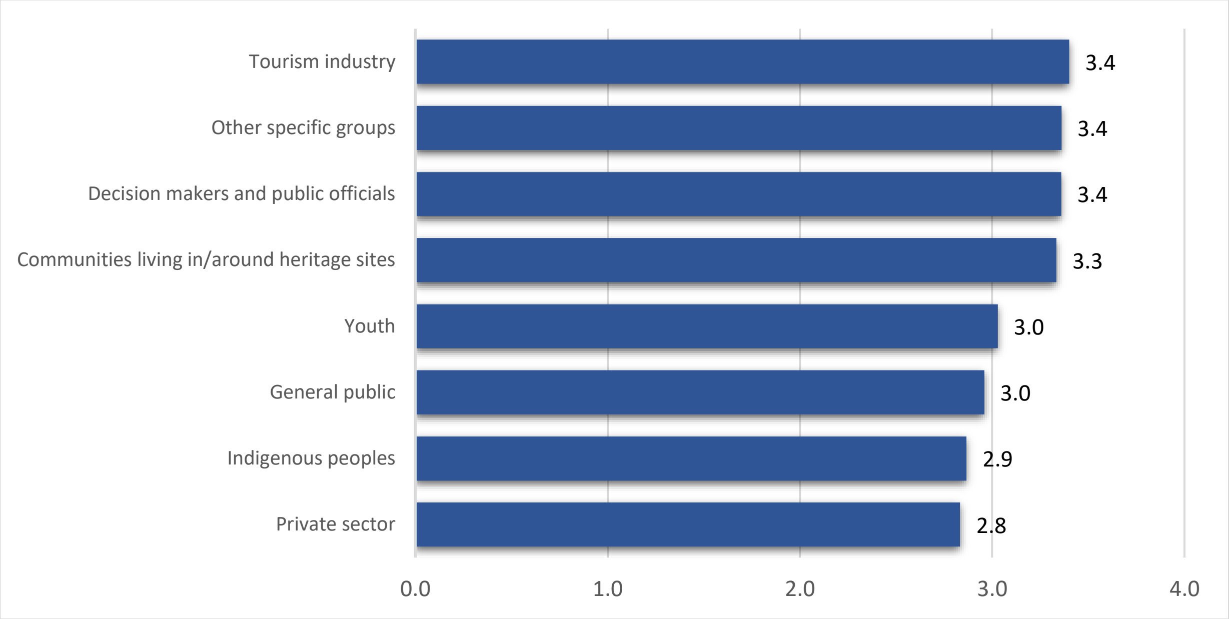


***Figure 2.20**. Q I.12.2: Please rate the level of general awareness of the following groups about World Heritage in your country.*

Regarding education programmes for children and/or youth that contribute to improving understanding of heritage and promoting diversity and fostering intercultural dialogue, half of the countries in the region responded that there are programmes but with deficiencies in implementation (see **Figure 2.21**). The frequency of various activities (listed) to promote this is relatively low.

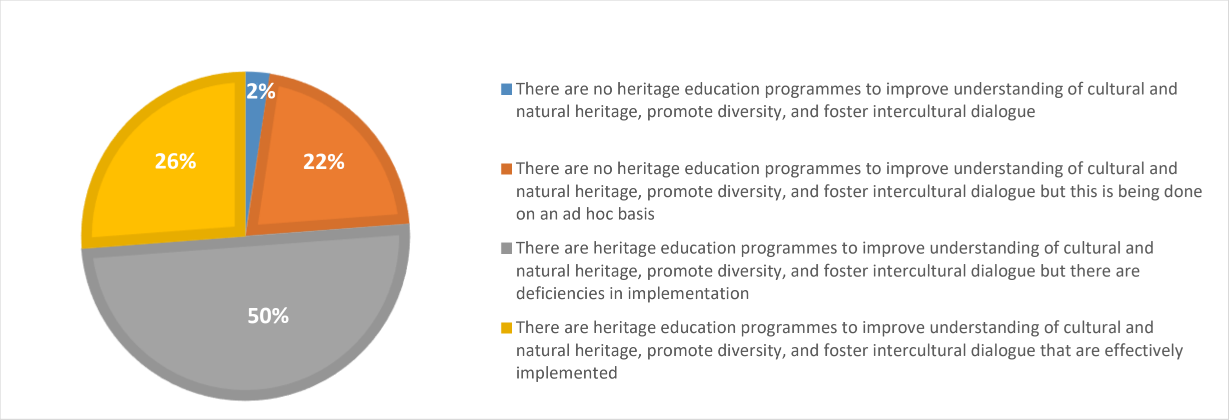


***Figure 2.21**. Q I.12.3: Does the State Party have heritage education programmes for children and/or youth that contribute to improving understanding of heritage, promoting diversity and fostering intercultural dialogue?*

Participation in UNESCO's World Heritage in Young Hands programme also remains very low in countries of the region.

There are many activities in different countries to promote awareness at all levels, but not with a systematic plan(s) in place.

2.13 Individual conclusions by the respondents and recommended actions

This section presents the main conclusions that were automatically generated under each of the items of Section 1, based on the answers provided by States Parties. States Parties were also requested to provide information about the various actions they have taken regarding their implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

Regarding the actions for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention (identified from question 13.1 of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire), the two top issues listed are capacity building and international cooperation. A total of 39 countries refer to matters related to the Capacity Building Strategy (Q.9.3) adopted by the Committee in 2011. In particular, 29 countries refer to the national level capacity-building strategies (Q.9.4), which are not considered to be well developed in these countries.

Thirty-seven countries make reference to international cooperation and various types of activities being implemented (Q.11.1)

When asked to indicate the priority actions to address items rated as poor in their overall answers, 28 and 26 countries respectively listed capacity building and international cooperation with details such as action, timeframe, authorities responsible and whether AI is needed. In addition, 14 countries refer to inadequacy of budgets (Q 8.3), the status of the national capacity-building strategy raised under Q.10.8, and 7 countries have noted issues relating to awareness (Q.12.1).

Individual countries listed various actions pertinent to their own situations but cannot see a pattern that could lead to collective actions. In addition to the focus on the issue of capacity building, the following actions are also noted: the importance of reviewing the Tentative List; progressing a World Heritage nomination(s); updating management plans for World Heritage areas; continuing to look where management of existing World Heritage areas – and leverage – can be improved, including increasing awareness and outreach.

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

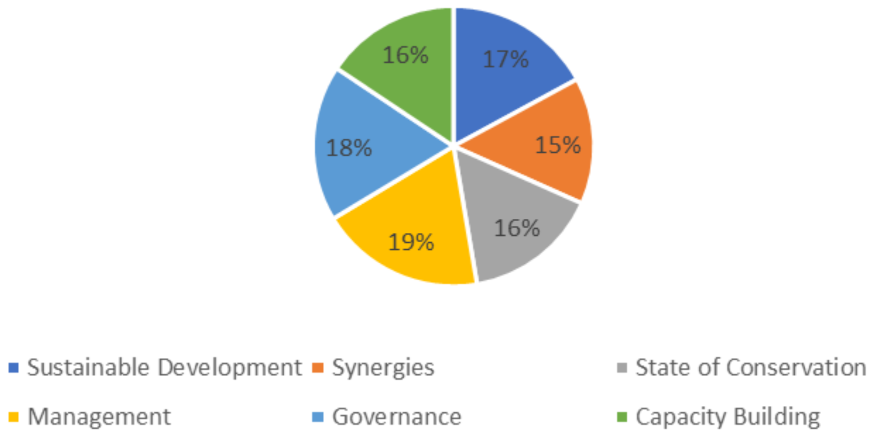


***Figure 2.22**. Topics covered by good practice examples for Section I (State Party level).*

Of the 39 examples provided, there are several that contain practical insights for those seeking inspiration on what national and regional governments could do in support not only of their World Heritage properties, but also in support of the national heritage in general. These examples include:

- The establishment of broader legal and regulatory frameworks at the national level;
- The creation of funding mechanisms in support of heritage conservation;
- The establishment of national level cooperation structures ensuring intersectoral coordination; and
- Capacity-building programmes for youth engaged on conservation work.

Several respondents provided examples focusing more on property-level management responses. Guidance for this part of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire could be strengthened to ensure that respondents maintain a focus at the State Party level.

Figure 2.22 shows how the examples at the State Party level were fairly evenly distributed. The pattern of distribution does not significantly change at the subregional level.

2.15 Assessment of the Periodic Reporting exercise

This section asked national Focal Points to assess the format, content and process of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise by commenting on the comprehensibility and clarity of the questionnaires and by providing feedback on the support made available throughout the exercise. Respondents rated the relevance of Periodic Reporting to four main interest groups, giving the highest rating to World Heritage site managers and the States Parties.

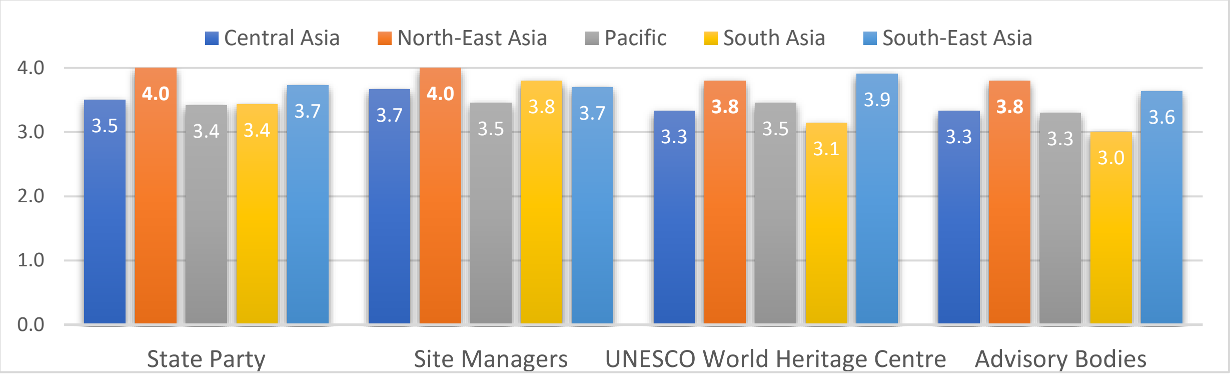


***Figure 2.23**. Q I.15.2.1: Relevance and objectives of Periodic Reporting.*

The overall feedback from the national Focal Points was positive and a high rating was given to how well the questionnaire addresses the four objectives of Periodic Reporting. Respondents indicated that the objective of providing an assessment of the implementation of the World Heritage Convention by the State Party was the most adequately addressed by the questionnaire (See Q I.15.2, Annex I).

Among the feedback and suggestions provided for improvement, the respondents emphasized the need for separate questions and detailed guidelines regarding serial properties, more space for commenting, simplified questions, and a more useful network between national Focal Points and site managers, as well as more capacity-building training for national Focal Points.

Regarding the use of the data generated by the Periodic Reporting exercise, the most widespread foreseen use is to improve the States Parties' implementation of the Convention, followed by the revision of priorities/strategies/policies for the protection, management and conservation of World Heritage and for awareness raising (See Q I.15.5, Annex I).

For the execution of this exercise, 22 States Parties mobilized additional human resources and 16 mobilized additional financial resources for the organization/delivery of meetings and trainings. It is worth noting that 73% of the States Parties explicitly considered gender balance and effectively implemented it in the process, albeit with some deficiencies. 74% considered that adequate time was given to gather the necessary information and to fill in the questionnaires, while 26% would have appreciated more time (See section 15.6, Annex I).

The majority of States Parties (29) reported that all or most of the information was easily accessible, but for 10 States Parties only some information was accessible, and 3 States Parties stated that little information was accessible. The questionnaire itself was considered easy to use and clear to understand for the majority of States Parties who gave it a rating between fair and good (See section 15.7, Annex I).

In terms of training and guidance, States Parties rated the involvement of the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS national/regional as the highest, and 81% of States Parties judged the online training resources adequate to complete the questionnaires (Figure 2.24). From the comments section, the training resources provided were globally appreciated by the national Focal Points, although it was suggested that the workshops should be extended, and provide more individual training.

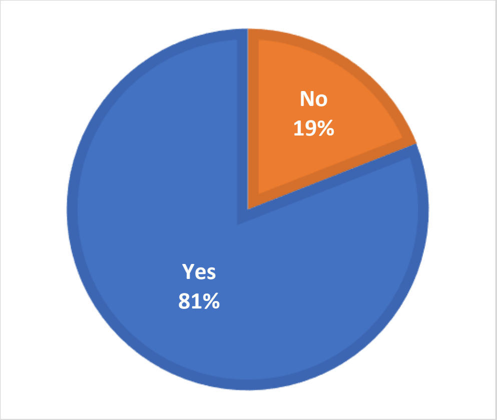


Figure 2.24*. Q I.15.8.2: Were the online training resources provided by the World Heritage Centre regarding Periodic Reporting adequate for your national authorities to complete the online questionnaire?*

From the overall responses and specific comments, the exercise seems to have been well received in the region. The workshops and guidance provided were globally appreciated in terms of contributing to the successful completion and submission of the questionnaires.

National Focal Points commented positively on the overall assessment, emphasizing its usefulness for the assessment by the World Heritage Centre on the implementation of the 1972 World Heritage Convention and its related strategies/policies/recommendations in each State Party, but also as a self-assessment tool for each State Party to evaluate the frameworks in place for the identification, protection, conservation and management of World Heritage in each respective country. The exercise also helped some States Parties to acquire a greater knowledge of UNESCO's policies, strategies and recommendations for the protection and conservation of natural and cultural heritage. A regular review of the implementation of monitoring mechanisms and related action plans in the region was also considered to be relevant.

2.16 Conclusions on Section I

The Third Cycle of the Periodic Reporting (PR) exercise was carried out at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, when there were many restrictions in place. Despite these restrictions, the PR exercise seems to have maintained a very high level of engagement from all relevant stakeholders. Thanks to the many efforts made by the Centre and Advisory bodies through online activities, it appears that the exercise has provided ample opportunities for the States Parties and the site management authorities to reflect on their obligations towards the convention and the requirements for more effective management of their sites, and interaction with relevant stakeholders. Based on the responses received, it is evident that all aspects related to implementation of the Convention remain well advanced in all subregions, while countries in North-East Asia are at the forefront. However, attention should be drawn to the Pacific countries, where there could be more improvement.

A growing interest has been identified in responding to the questions related to the World Heritage Policy on Sustainable Development. Questions cover many themes, however, and some reorganization is needed to improve clarity. It would be beneficial to assess the reported activities undertaken by individual countries, with a view to sharing this information among States Parties. It would also be helpful to assess the applicability and usefulness of the large number of legal frameworks that have been developed by individual countries, again with a view to sharing them. Several good practices listed can be useful references for States Parties. Capacity building remains high on the agendas of States Parties, which can be supported by the six C2Cs and other initiatives by the States Parties and universities with the help of the Advisory Bodies. The States Parties should be encouraged to utilize the results of the PR exercise when preparing State of Conservation (SOC) reports, in addition to numerous other applications.

Finally, the exercise itself seems to have been well received by the States Parties of the region, who consider it as a strong conservation monitoring mechanism, as well as an informative tool that provides the opportunity to strengthen communication and cooperation between all World Heritage stakeholders.

3 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION AT WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

This section of the report presents the results of the analysis of Section II of the Periodic Report questionnaire, which focuses on the implementation of the Convention at site level. It provides an understanding of how national and local contexts, and their differing factors, affect the conservation and management of the 269 properties in the region. Site managers completed Section II of the questionnaire; the respective national Focal Points then validated the completed Section II prior to submission. 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

Table 3.1. *Repartition of World Heritage properties in the Asia and the Pacific region*

Site category	States Parties	Cultural properties	Mixed properties	Natural properties	Total properties
Asia and the Pacific	42	187	12	65	264
Central Asia	6	34	0	4	38
North-East Asia	5	73	4	21	98
Pacific	13	8	6	15	29
South Asia	7	45	1	12	58
South-East Asia	11	27	1	13	41

The total number of State Party reports remains at just one more than in the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting. However, there has been a considerable increase in the number of properties since the second cycle, with the reported addition of 51 cultural properties, 3 mixed and 16 natural properties. The Asia and the Pacific Region accounted for 33.3% of the 210 new properties inscribed globally, while the growth rate is 35%, the highest among all regions. For the Pacific, information provision about property data in the subregion was limited compared to other subregions.

Of the new properties, 19 are mixed or natural heritage, accounting for 40% of the new properties globally in these two categories, followed by Europe and North America, which accounts for 20.5%.

The biggest increase in reported properties (31) is in North-East Asia and notably China. Only two other countries report plans to nominate new properties in the next three years. Greater use of the Upstream Process for helping revise Tentative Lists might encourage other countries in the region to nominate properties to fill obvious gaps in the World Heritage List.

Area data was updated by 67 properties (seven via the form and the remainder via the comments section). Of these, 32 properties updated the data for the property area, with seven making a significant change (>10%); 29 properties updated the data for the buffer zone area, with three making a significant change (>10%). No information was provided on the property area by 20 properties, of which 17 were in South Asia; 11 of the properties have maps on the World Heritage website but most of them date back before the 1990s. Two properties are updating in this cycle, and eight properties have neither updated data nor maps.

3.2 Other conventions/programmes under which the World Heritage property is protected

Table 3.2. *Q II.2.1: The World Heritage property (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
Asia and the Pacific	0	1	17	22	8
Central Asia	0	0	0	1	0
North-East Asia	0	0	6	14	8
Pacific	0	0	4	0	0
South Asia	0	0	5	6	0
South-East Asia	0	1	2	1	0

Seventeen World Heritage properties are listed as Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Table 3.2), but none are reported as likely to be nominated in the next three years.

Twenty-two properties are listed as Biosphere Reserves and a further six sites report an intention of applying for this status, five of which are in Central Asia. 10 of these properties are in China.

Eight World Heritage properties, all in North-East Asia (seven in China), are listed as UNESCO Global Geoparks, but 14 sites are expected to nominate in the next three years spread across all five regions. This suggests a growing popularity for this combination of designations.

There is a wide variation between subregions in terms of size and socio-economic status.

Ten of the 11 countries of South-East Asia belong to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), who have their own designation of ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHP) with a secretariat in the Philippines. Such parks are selected protected areas in the ASEAN region, known for their unique biodiversity and ecosystems, wilderness and outstanding values in scenery, culture, education, research, recreation and tourism. Fifty ASEAN Heritage Parks have been designated as of 2019. Nine sites are designated as UNESCO World Heritage properties:

- Kinabalu National Park (Malaysia)
- Gunung Mulu National Park (Malaysia)
- Lorentz National Park (Indonesia)
- Kerinci Seblat National Park and Gunung Leuser National Park (two of three components that form the Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra) (Indonesia)
- Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park (the Philippines)
- Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary (the Philippines)
- Khao Yai National Park and Kaeng Krachan National Park (Thailand)

As previously mentioned, cooperation between the authorities of such overlapping designations is reported as somewhat lacking, unless the same authority is responsible for more than one designation. Greater cooperation would seem desirable and may best be achieved by adopting less compartmentalized organizational structures and planning more cross-sectoral exchange and reporting.

Table 3.3. *Q I.2.4.1: Is there communication between the World Heritage Focal Point and the Focal Points of the convention(s)/programme(s) listed below?*

Convention/Programme	Central Asia	North-East Asia	Pacific	South Asia	South-East Asia	Total
Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage	5	5	10	6	11	37
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	2	5	9	5	6	27
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)	2	4	5	5	6	22
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)	2	1	4	4	1	12
Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention)	2	5	7	6	7	27
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)	1	1	3	4	3	12
International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)	2	2	2	4	4	14
1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict	3	2	1	3	3	12
Second Protocol to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict	2	1	1	0	1	5
1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property	3	5	0	4	4	16
2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage	1	0	2	0	0	3
2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage	5	4	9	6	10	34
2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions	0	3	1	2	5	11
Man and the Biosphere Programme	2	5	2	4	6	19
Global Geoparks	1	3	1	0	3	8

3.3 Statement of Outstanding Universal Value

Requests for countries to review their statements of OUV have resulted in the verification of over 85% of existing statements, and only 36 revisions. Most properties in the region benefit from an up-to-date Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, with only a dozen properties currently in the process of revising their retrospective statements prior to adoption by the Committee. For the Pacific subregion, there was some feedback indicating that the statement requires revision to address the scope of options to reflect broader issues, including climate change and Indigenous peoples' culture.

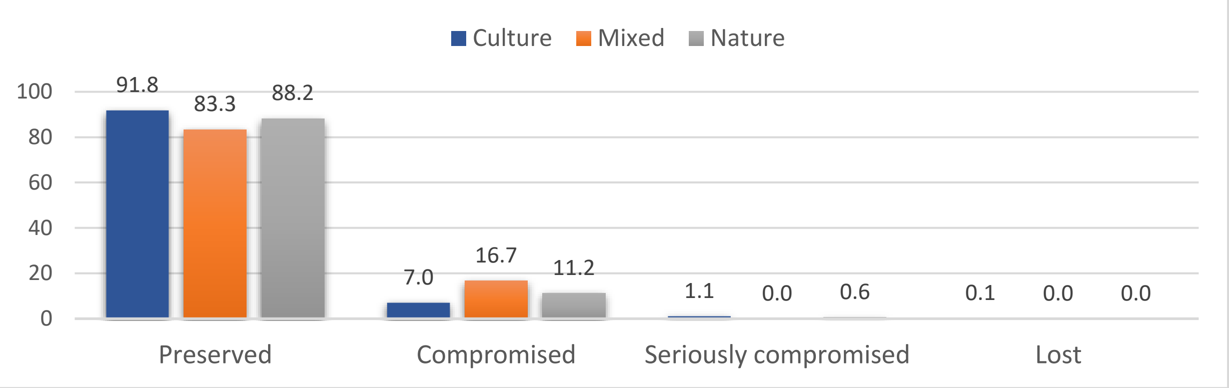


***Figure 3.1**. Q II.3.2: Please list the key attributes of Outstanding Universal Value of your property and give an assessment of their condition*

Over 90% of properties report that the OUV is well preserved (Figure 3.1). A small number of properties report some compromised attributes of OUV, mostly in mixed properties.

For the Pacific, OUV attributes for properties were largely identified as being preserved with a small number of outliers where some attributes were identified as being seriously compromised. There was limited commentary provided relating to recommendations beyond acknowledgement of conventional threats and challenges, such as invasive species, limited capacity, enforcement, incompatible adjoining land uses, extreme remoteness, research needs and funding levels. Climate change is clearly affecting many properties in the subregion in immediate, direct and nuanced ways.

3.4 Factors affecting the properties

Questions 4.1 to 4.14 of the questionnaire required States Parties to report on 13 factors affecting a property's OUV:

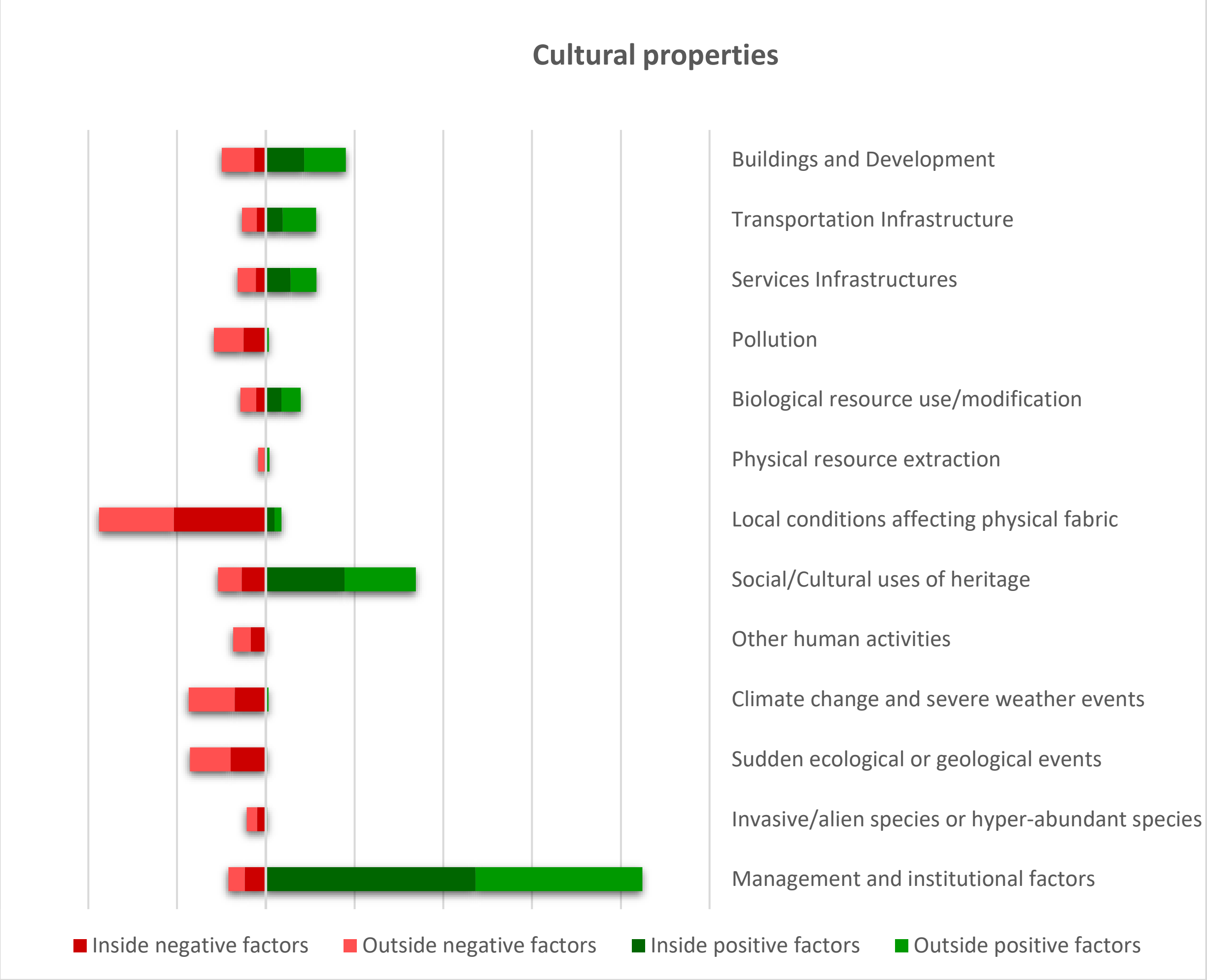
- Buildings and development
- Transportation infrastructure
- Services infrastructures
- Pollution
- Biological resource use/modification
- Physical resource extraction
- Local conditions affecting physical fabric
- Social/Cultural uses of heritage
- Other human activities
- Climate change and severe weather events
- Sudden ecological or geological events
- Invasive/Alien species or hyper-abundant species
- Management and institutional factors.

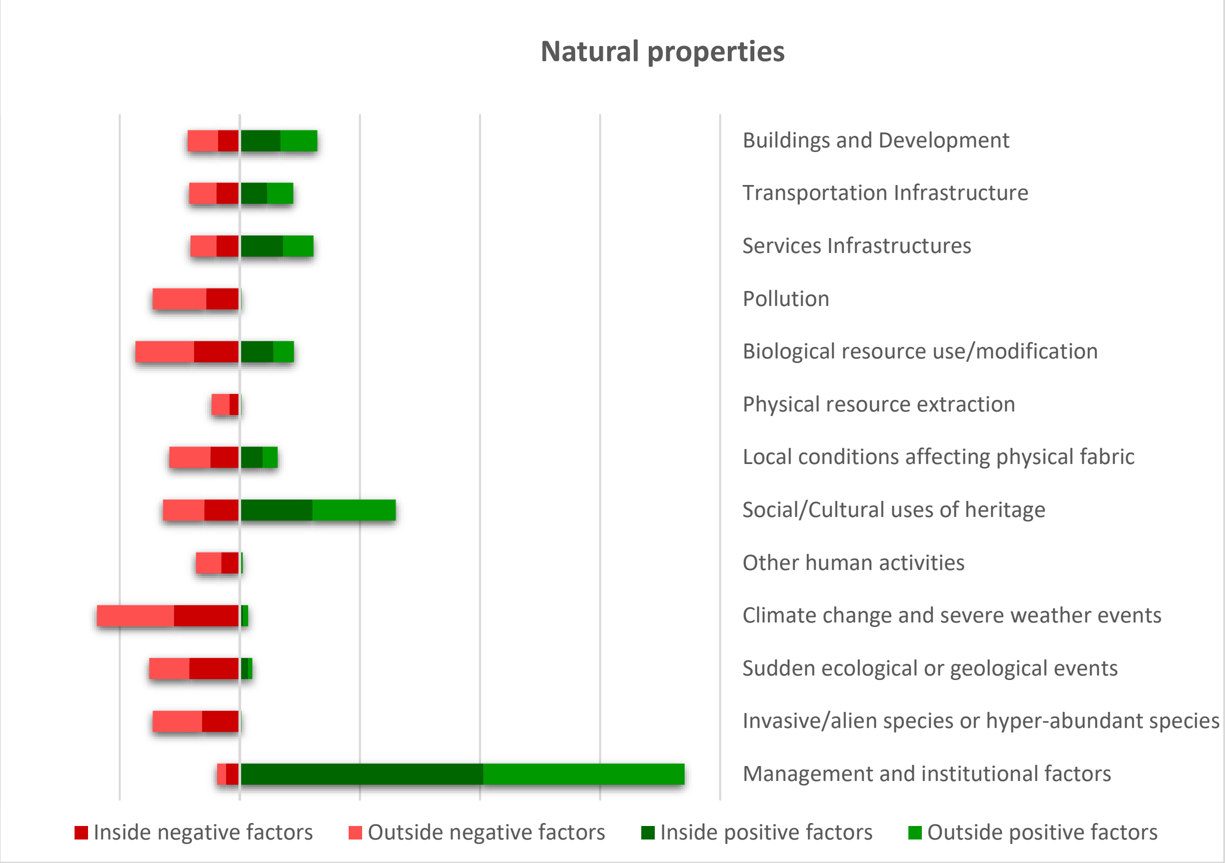
These factors were adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2008 and formerly assessed in the 2nd Cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise. They are further divided into 76 subfactors. Respondents were asked to identify any of those subfactors that were either positively or negatively affecting the property, whether its impact was current or potential, if it originated inside or outside the property and whether the trend was increasing, decreasing or stable.

Given the vast amount of data collected (11,085 data points dispersed among 264 natural, cultural and mixed properties, 5 subregions, 13 factors and 76 subfactors), this section can only provide a very general overview of results. The focus is on regional-level findings, with some subregional observations provided when the data (either synthetic as provided in Annex II or detailed comments per factor relevance per property) reveal findings that could be of interest in the elaboration of the regional action plan that is to respond to this exercise.

Major trends in the State of Conservation (SOC) reports submitted to the World Heritage Committee between the two Periodic Reporting cycles are also compared with the results of the analysis of the negative impacts.

For the purposes of this report, to provide a more in-depth analysis we will focus on the most frequently reported factors, both positive and negative. Furthermore, the report aims to highlight common factors impacting cultural, mixed and natural properties in each subregion.





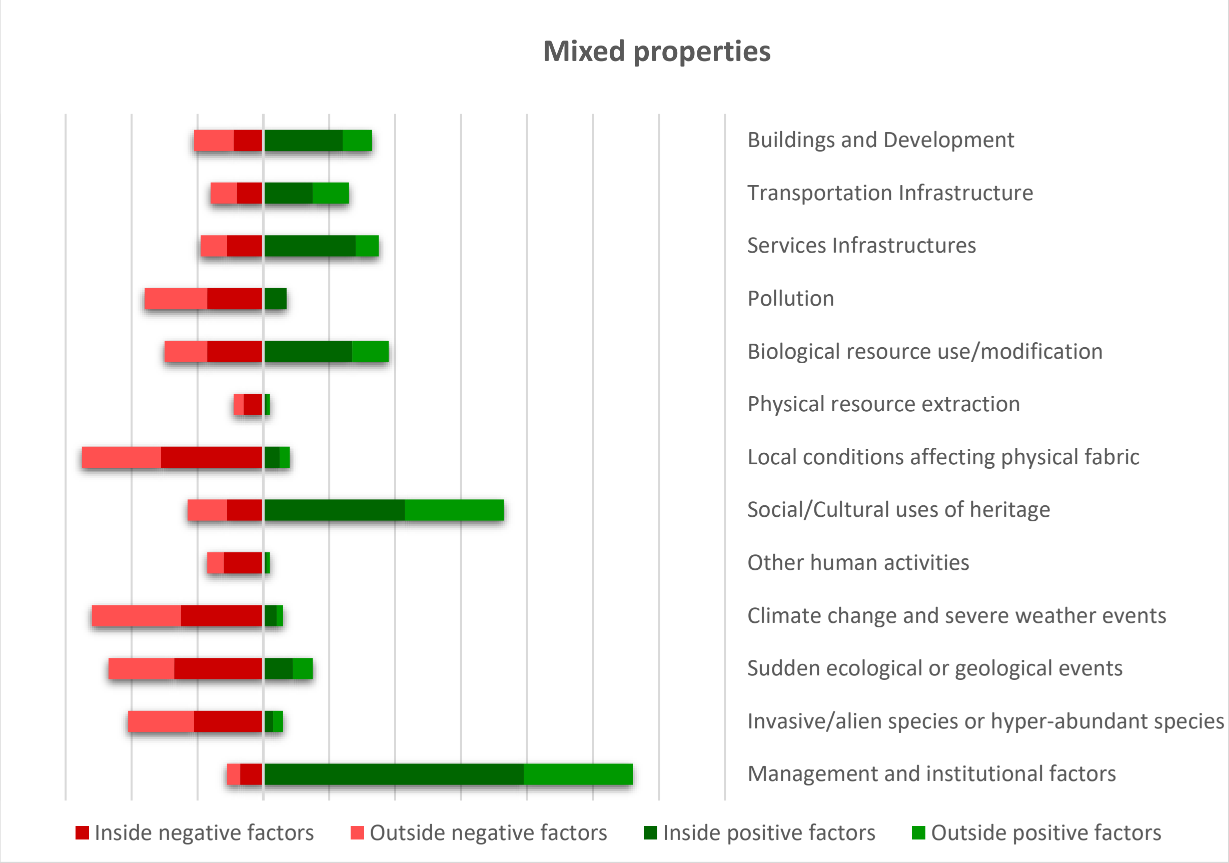


***Figure 3.2**. Citation frequency of factors positively and negative affecting World Heritage properties – cultural, mixed and natural.*

3.4.1 Distribution of factors reported – A significant difference between positive and negative

Figure 3.2 illustrates the frequency with which factors were cited as having either a positive or a negative effect on the property, by property type (current and potential combined). For cultural properties, management and institutional factors is noteworthy for being cited as a positive factor in 45% of all reports for natural and cultural properties. With regard to negative factors, cultural properties strongly cite one factor above all others: local conditions affecting physical fabric. Within this, citations for the subfactors were roughly evenly distributed (relative humidity, water, pests, temperature, micro-organisms, dust) with only radiation/light having a significantly lower frequency of citation.

Notwithstanding the local conditions outlier for cultural properties, the figures above show how the reporting of negative factors for the three types of properties is much more evenly distributed. It would seem that, overall, properties are reported to be positively affected by a narrow set of factors, while a more wide-ranging set of factors affect them negatively. These observations suggest that any action plan developed in response to this Periodic Report would be broad in scope.

3.4.2 Proportion of positive to negative reports

By calculating a measure of the relative frequency at which positive and negative factors are cited, we obtain an indication on the general outlook revealed by the Periodic Reporting Exercise. For example, should an equal number of positive to negative citations be made for the same factor, the relative frequency would be one. Table 3.4 shows that, overall, positive factors are cited more frequently for cultural properties, while negative factors are cited more frequently for natural properties. This observation could imply that respondents have a more negative outlook for the latter.

Table 3.4. *Proportion of positive to negative reports*

Proportion of positive to negative reports		
Cultural	Mixed	Natural
1.15	0.98	0.95

3.4.3 The three most prominent factors affecting properties

Table 3.5*. The three most prominent factors affecting properties in the Asia and the Pacific region by type of property, and the comparative frequency with which they are cited*

Cultural		**Mixed**		**Natural**	
Positive 77%	Negative 48%	Positive 61%	Negative 50%	Positive 72%	Negative 38%
Management /Institutional factors	Local conditions affecting physical fabric	Management /Institutional factors	Climate change/ severe weather events	Management /Institutional factors	Climate change/ severe weather events
Social /Cultural use of heritage	Climate change / severe weather events	Social /Cultural use of heritage	Local conditions affecting physical fabric	Social /Cultural use of heritage	Biological resource use /modification
Buildings and development	Sudden ecological /geological events	Services infrastructures	Sudden ecological /geological events	Services infrastructures	Pollution

Table 3.5 illustrates a clear relationship between the type of property and the factors reported. The three most frequently reported positive factors are broadly the same across property types and in ranking. They also represent most of all factors reported (for example, the three most frequently cited positive factors for cultural properties together represent 77% of all positive factors cited). There is slightly more diversity in the range of negative factors cited (five), while they also represent a much smaller proportion of all factors cited (between 38% and 50%).

As a corollary, most of the other factors tend to be relatively rarely cited as having positive contributions. For further information see Annex II.

Table 3.6. *The three most prominent factors affecting properties by subregion and the comparative frequency with which they are cited*

Subregion	Negative	%	Positive	%
Central Asia	4.7 Local conditions affecting physical fabric 4.10 Climate change and severe weather events 4.5 Biological resource use/modification	48	4.13 Management and institutional factors 4.8 Social/Cultural uses of heritage 4.1 Buildings and development	75
North-East Asia	4.7 Local conditions affecting physical fabric 4.10 Climate change and severe weather events 4.1 Buildings and development	55	4.13 Management and institutional factors 4.8 Social/Cultural uses of heritage 4.1 Buildings and development	76
Pacific	4.10 Climate change and severe weather events 4.12 Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species 4.7 Local conditions affecting physical fabric	38	4.13 Management and institutional factors 4.8 Social/Cultural uses of heritage 4.5 Biological resource use/modification	73
South Asia	4.7 Local conditions affecting physical fabric 4.8 Social/Cultural uses of heritage 4.10 Climate change and severe weather events	42	4.13 Management and institutional factors 4.8 Social/Cultural uses of heritage 4.1 Buildings and development	83
South-East Asia	4.7 Local conditions affecting physical fabric 4.4 Pollution 4.5 Biological resource use/modification	38	4.13 Management and institutional factors 4.8 Social/Cultural uses of heritage 4.1 Buildings and development	71

By further evaluating how factors are identified at the subregional level, the patterns at the regional level for the culture/mixed/nature properties shown in the tables and figures above appear to be largely maintained. In all subregions, a small number of positive factors represent a large majority of reports (71%–83%). Only in the Pacific subregion, where there is a large proportion of natural heritage sites, do we find an exception to the otherwise homogeneous reporting for positive factors (in bold). For negative factors, there is a greater diversity, and the top three reported factors represent a smaller proportion of those reported. Only the issue of local conditions affecting physical fabric is common to all subregions, while invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species (in bold) frequently cited in the Pacific subregion is indicative of the many natural properties there which, being insular, are particularly susceptible to such threats.

3.4.4 Most frequently cited factors

Of the 13 possible factors affecting a property, nine make it to the 'top three' rank among those cited for cultural, natural and mixed sites (see **Error! Reference source not found.**):

- Management/Institutional factors
- Social/Cultural use of heritage
- Local conditions affecting physical fabric
- Climate change/Severe weather events
- Sudden ecological/geological events
- Buildings and development
- Pollution
- Biological resource use/modifications
- Services infrastructures

Given space constraints, only the four most prominent positive factors (representing 82.5% of all positive factors cited) and the four most prominent negative factors (representing 52.2% of all negative factors cited) will be discussed here.

It is useful to note that while the survey asked respondents to indicate which factors/subfactors affected the property, there was no way for them to indicate the extent to which that factor was relevant. For example, while the earthquakes may have been cited, the respondent has no way to indicate if earthquakes have had a recent serious effect on the property or if it was only a minor concern.

For each factor discussed below, the relative frequency with which it is cited as positive over negative (or vice versa) provides an indicator of the way in which a particular factor contributes to the property's conservation. In the first instance, management/institutional factors are cited by respondents 11.4 times more frequently as a positive contribution to a property's conservation than as a negative one. The closer this value comes to 1, the more the factor is cited as contributing both positively AND negatively in equal proportions to a property's conservation.

Also, showing the number of citations for a factor as a relative percentage of all factors cited provides another indicator of the magnitude of its perceived importance in contributing positively or negatively to a site's conservation. For example, the section 'Management/Institutional factors' below shows that this factor alone was cited by 44.7% of all survey respondents as positively influencing a property's conservation.

Management/Institutional factors

- Positive over negative by a factor of 11.4. (44.7%) of all positive factors cited

While some factors are cited as being the source of negative and positive effects on properties in roughly equal measure, this factor was notable in how it was cited almost exclusively for its positive effects on properties (11.4 times more frequently as positive rather than negative).

Combined with the fact that management/institutional factors stand out as being identified for nearly half of all positive factors, respondents expressed a very high level of satisfaction in the questionnaire as to how properties are being managed. A review of the eight subfactors that contribute to this factor shows a reasonably even distribution of citations, with no single subfactor standing out above the rest.

The subfactors under management and institutional factors include governance, legal frameworks and management systems, management plans, financial resources, monitoring, low- and high-impact research. Further details are provided on a property-by-property basis on how this factor comes into play. It could be argued that ‘management’ is a cross-cutting factor, whose purpose is to identify and address negative factors – which would explain why it is so widely viewed as positive.

Social/Cultural use of heritage

- Positive over negative by a factor of 2.7. (19.6%) of all positive factors cited

Social and cultural uses of heritage can contribute to community/economic support for a property’s conservation, as a larger number of people develop deep personal/economic links (such as tourism) to its conservation. These uses can also undermine a property’s integrity if they are poorly managed – likely explaining why the factor was not overwhelmingly cited as a positive one. The most prominent subfactors cited as positive were ritual/spiritual/religious and associative uses, and society's valuing of heritage (together cited positive over negative by a factor of 7.5). The subfactors cited as being least positive over negative were Indigenous hunting, gathering and collecting, and changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system (cited negatively slightly more often than positively). Impacts of tourism/visitation/recreation, highly relevant for many properties, receives a positive over negative rating of 2.7, although it is important to note that of the six subfactors under social/cultural use of heritage, tourism is disproportionately cited among subfactors as being the source of negative effects.

Buildings and development

- Positive over negative by a factor of 1.5. (10.4%) of all positive factors cited

This factor includes several subfactors: commercial development, housing, industrial areas, interpretative and visitation facilities, and major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure. A rough analysis of the respondents’ comments on how this factor affects the property either negatively or positively reveals that projects impacting the property are either single constructions or larger scale built-up areas with a wider footprint located within the boundaries, the buffer zones or the wider setting of the property. Negative impacts are non-integrated high rise, visual pollution, urban sprawl and industrial development, among others.

Positive or negative impacts also vary according to the property’s size and category, cities, archaeological sites and cultural landscapes, to name but a few. Interestingly, the respondents’ detailed comments on how this factor is relevant to their property hints at concerns over sustainable development approaches in line with the SDGs, although it is not stated explicitly. Likewise, such a factor strongly relates to management and institutional factors; as mentioned earlier, it also relates to spatial and temporal scales linked to territorial planning strategies. The latter should be correlated to tools and policy documents, and in particular to the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape, which provides an approach to linking conservation and development.

Service infrastructures

- Positive over negative by a factor of 1.7. (7.8%) of all positive factors cited

This factor includes several subfactors: localized utilities, major linear utilities, non-renewable energy facilities, renewable energy facilities, and water infrastructure. Positive impacts for all categories of properties, within the properties, buffer zones or their wider settings are related to improving the quality of life of communities, in particular in remote and least developed areas, by providing clean water, sewage systems and energy, and providing access to management communication resources, or allowing for high-tech monitoring mechanisms. Renewable energy and small-sized facilities are highlighted by respondents. They also recall, accordingly, that the

OUV of some properties is related to historic water management systems or renewable energy such as windmills. When defined as negative, impacts relevant to all subfactors are mostly related to above-ground infrastructures affecting the visual integrity, for example, except for archaeological sites impacted by underground structures. Interestingly, the analysis of the respondents' detailed comments on how this factor is relevant per property highlights concerns for sustainable development approaches in line with the SDGs, although this is not stated explicitly.

As for buildings and development, the respondents' detailed comments hint at concerns for sustainable development approaches in line with the SDGs. Similarly, as mentioned earlier, service infrastructures strongly relate to management and institutional factors; they also relate to spatial and temporal scales linked to territorial planning strategies. With regard to building and development, this should be correlated to tools and policy documents, and in particular to the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape which provides an approach to linking conservation and development.

Local conditions affecting physical fabric

- Negative over positive by a factor of 7.8. (20.8%) of all negative factors cited

Local conditions refer to the biophysical environment to which a property is subjected. This factor encompasses several subfactors which, together, are responsible for the natural entropy that affects all structures – water, wind, humidity, micro-organisms and more. Most frequently cited subfactors include pests and water, while wind, humidity and temperature are not far behind. It should come as no surprise that these pervasive and relentless forces are the most frequently noted negative factor affecting properties, responsible for just over one in five of all negative factors cited. Citations of this factor as having a negative effect are much more pronounced for cultural and mixed properties (10.8 and 6.8 times more frequently cited) than for natural properties (2.2 times more frequently cited), which also should be expected, as natural properties exist in large part due to the very forces identified under this factor. Natural properties cite pests as the more frequent negative subfactor – possibly confusing these with alien species, a different factor altogether.

Climate change/severe weather events

- Negative over positive by a factor of 20.4. (12.7%) of all negative factors cited

Climate change/severe weather events are overwhelmingly considered a negative factor by a very wide margin (cited 20.4 times more as a negative factor than positive). While this factor represents only 12.7% of all the negative factors cited, this is likely attributable to the fact that negative factor citations are more evenly distributed than positive factor citations among the 13 factors. Of the seven subfactors, the most commonly cited are storms (28%), temperature change (23%) and flooding (19%).

Sudden ecological/geological events

- Negative over positive by a factor of 12.3. (10.2%) of all negative factors cited

This factor includes mostly relatively rare but catastrophic events such as volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis, avalanches and fires. The majority of subfactors cited are listed under 'potential' (69%), indicating that respondents are aware of how vulnerable the properties may be to a variety of such events. The most frequently cited subfactors include fires/wildfires (27%), 'earthquakes' (23% – almost all cited for cultural properties), erosion/siltation/deposition (22%) and 'avalanches/landslides' (17%). While such events can be rare, in many cases there are management interventions that can be implemented to mitigate their potential effects. A few respondents for natural properties reported erosion/siltation and fires/wildfires as positive factors in likely recognition of the ecologically rejuvenating processes these may represent.

3.4.5 Predictions regarding the state of conservation of attributes

Predictions are overwhelmingly positive for all categories of property. Overall, cultural properties show more optimism, while mixed properties, though still quite optimistic, are slightly less so. No loss of attributes is expected.

Such data are consistent with the answers of respondents regarding overall positive management. Hardly any attributes are foreseen as potentially seriously compromised (Figure 3.3). Such predictions imply that properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger will meet their desired state of conservation and no potential ascertained loss of OUV is foreseen, nor any delisting of properties.

Further analysis is needed on those attributes reported as being seriously compromised. Guidance should be developed and a detailed analysis of types of threat should be undertaken to fine-tune what type of actions should be carried out within the APA Action plan.

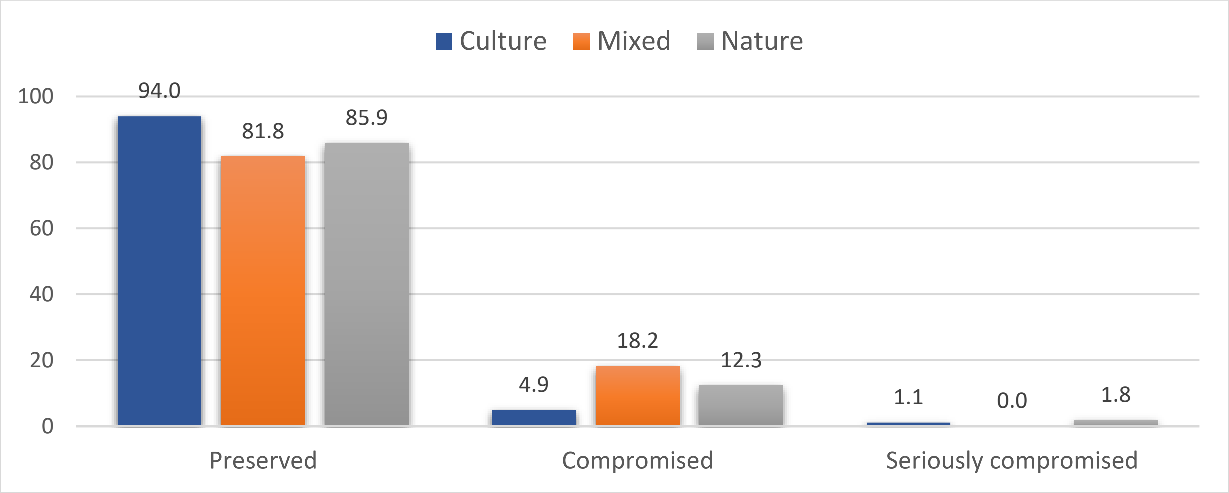


***Figure 3.3**. Q II.4.18.1: Please predict what the state of conservation of each attribute will be approximately six years from now (at the time of the next cycle of Periodic Reporting) (% of total).*

Periodic Reporting provides an overall assessment of all the properties in the region. The process is managed by States Parties. Respondents are required to identify both positive and negative factors affecting the property, regardless of their level of intensity. In reality, some of the negative factors cited may be so severe as to become an immediate cause for concern over the property's OUV. The parallel State of Conservation (SOC) reporting process triggered by World Heritage Committee decisions provides an additional mechanism through which such negative factors can be further evaluated. SOC reports are produced by the World Heritage Centre in close cooperation with Advisory Bodies and rely on information provided by States Parties and through other channels. These parallel processes provide conservation stakeholders with an opportunity to compare the extent to which they may or may not agree with each other.

Table 3.7 contains the most frequently cited negative factors for cultural, mixed and natural properties obtained by the Periodic Report process, along with those most frequently cited through SOC reports (http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc/). The SOC reports cover the interval between the two APA Periodic Reporting cycles. The factors are listed in descending order of citation frequency. A total of 317 SOC reports concerning 95 properties were produced during this interval (2010–2019), or 36% of all properties in the region.

***Table 3.7.** Most frequently cited negative factors for cultural, mixed and natural properties, along with those most frequently cited in SOC reports*

Periodic reporting results			State of conservation reporting results
Cultural	Mixed	Natural	All properties
Local conditions affecting physical fabric	Climate change/ severe weather events	Climate change/ severe weather events	Management/ institutional
Climate change/ severe weather events	Local conditions affecting physical fabric	Biological resource use /modification	Buildings and development
Sudden ecological/ geological events	Sudden ecological/ geological events	Pollution	Transportation infrastructures
Buildings and development	Invasive/alien species	Sudden ecological/ geological events	Other human activities
Pollution	Pollution	Invasive/alien species	Social/cultural use of heritage

Perhaps the most striking result in comparing the two reporting processes is that management is the most prevalent negative factor in SOC reporting, whereas it is cited as the most positive factor in the Periodic Reporting process (see Table 3.5). Furthermore, out of the five most common negative factors cited in SOC reporting, only buildings and development appears among the 15 factors cited under the cultural/mixed/natural properties of the Periodic Reporting process (and only once). This divergence is strongly reflected in quantitative data and less so when examining detailed comments by respondents on how the factors selected are relevant per property. This incongruity in the top negative factors between the two reporting processes is noteworthy and likely deserves further consideration.

As shown above, the top five negative factors prevailing in SOC reports could be defined as human-made, where governance, legal frameworks and management factors as decision-making processes are key. If management is understood as a cross-cutting factor, this explains why it is prevalent as a positive factor and a negative one in SOC reports. When building and development, transportation infrastructure, social and cultural use of heritage-related projects are assessed as positive, they are likely developed within robust legal frameworks and guidelines, as well as within clear development programmes addressing improved liveability by reducing urban decay, e.g. poverty or enhancing heritage awareness and access to sites through visitor facilities. However, when these factors are considered negative, the intensity can be more extreme, leading to a serious need to mitigate the impact of high rise, visual pollution, urban sprawl and industrial development, among others.

3.4.6 Factors affecting properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger

Of the 264 properties in the APA Region, 6 (2.3%) were inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2020–2021. This compares favourably with the proportion of Danger List properties at the global level (4.5%). They are impacted by 21 subfactors falling under 12 factors – demonstrating a broad range of negative effects. A review of the most frequently cited factors (and subfactors) reported as having a negative effect on these properties reveals the following (Table 3.8).

Table 3.8. *Most frequently cited factors (and subfactors) reported as having a negative effect on properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger*

Top 5 negative factors	**Number of Danger List properties affected** **(out of 6)**	**% of Danger List properties affected**
Management/Institutional (management systems/ management plan, legal framework)	5	83.3
Other threats *	3	50
Other human activities (illegal activities, civil unrest)	3	50
Building and development (housing, commercial development)	2	33.3
Biological resource use/modification (fishing/collecting aquatic resources, forestry/wood production, land conversion)	2	33.3

* Risk of collapse of the Giant Buddha niches; irreversible deterioration of the mural paintings; demolition and re-building of traditional housing areas; inclination of the Minaret.

The factors impacting properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger hardly match the negative impacts reported on within the framework of the Periodic Reporting, except for natural sites in the Pacific. However, they match with the negative factors in the State of Conservation reports, with the management factor prevailing.

3.4.7 Final observation on factors affecting the properties and outlook

Positive responses and outlooks prevail.

Overall, current positive factors were cited 60% of the time compared to a 40% citation rate for current negative factors. The management and institutional factor prevails as a key cross-cutting factor very positively reported by the respondents.

Further research on management mechanisms and institutional frameworks should be considered, as well as prioritizing capacity building on this topic to more effectively address negative factors and better identify gaps, challenges and needs, in particular for properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Further understanding types of positive and negative impacts would contribute to strengthening management and conservation directions and developing case studies. In particular, temporal and spatial scales, types of heritage, cities, cultural landscapes, forests, marine and coastal, religious and sacred, monuments, archaeology or other heritage typologies relevant to the region and subregions should be considered to better understand specific challenges and needs to strengthen management, conservation and impact assessments practices.

3.5 Protection and management of the property

This section of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire sought to gather information on how well properties are managed, how their integrity is assured through legal and institutional frameworks and how well the World Heritage Convention is leveraged at the property level to meet sustainable development objectives.

3.5.1 Boundaries and buffer zones

The boundaries of properties are reported as predominantly (82%) very satisfactory for the task of maintaining the properties' OUV, and a further 16% are reported as mostly adequate but could be improved; less than 2% are reported as inadequate (Figure 3.4). These boundaries are also reported to be 90% well-known by management authorities and local communities/landowners, although there are significant variations per subregion, particularly in the Pacific. For only 10% of properties, respondents report that boundaries are well-known to managers but not to local communities. With regard to buffer zones, 70% of properties report satisfaction, while 16% report on the need for improvement. Some 9% of sites lack a buffer zone but do not feel they need one. For 19% of properties, the buffer zone is not adequately known or accepted by local communities/landowners (Figure 3.5).

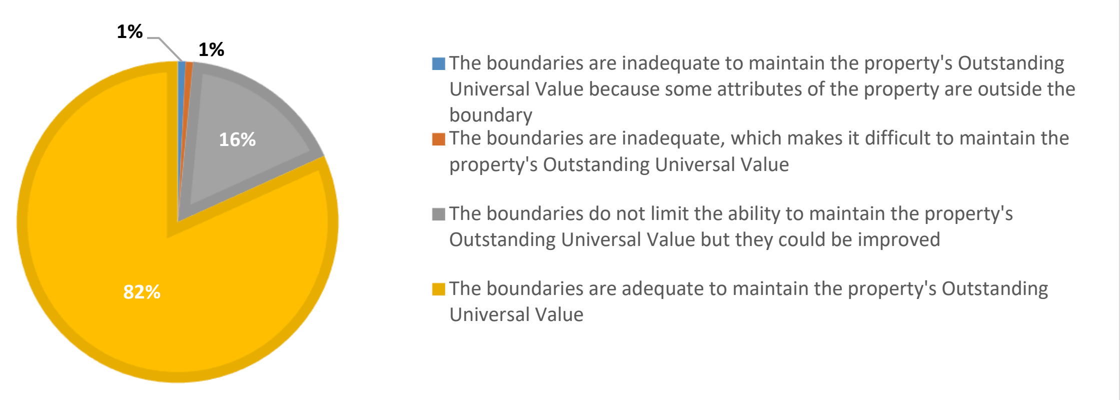


Figure 3.4. *Q II.5.1.1: Are the boundaries of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?*

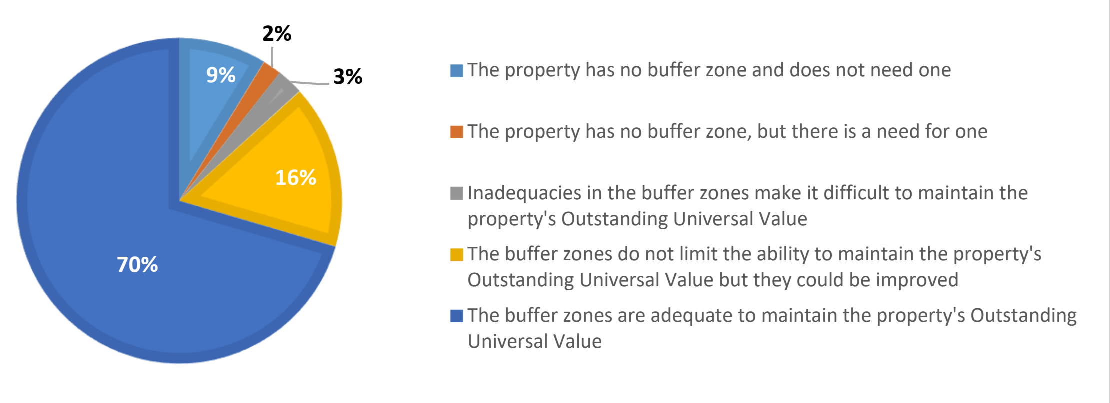


Figure 3.5. *Q II.5.1.3: Are the buffer zone(s) of the World Heritage property adequate to maintain the property's Outstanding Universal Value?*

3.5.2 Protective designation

The majority of properties (80%) report their legal framework is adequate for maintaining OUV, authenticity and integrity, with a further 18% reporting basic adequacy but some deficiencies in implementation (Table 3.9). However, there are subregional discrepancies: North-East Asia report a stronger rate of existing effective management and legal protection compared to Central Asia, the Pacific and South-East Asia. Significantly, properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger are within these subregions, reporting less robust management frameworks. The legal framework adequacy is less important in buffer zones (65%) and higher outside the boundaries in the wider setting (78%). In most cases, the law is good but enforcement and enforcement capacity are not quite as good (at 69% adequacy). The trends in the subregions are the same for all related protective measures questions.

Table 3.9. *Percentage of properties reporting adequacy in legal/regulatory frameworks and enforcement capacity*

Legal/regulatory frameworks	**Adequate (%)**	**Some deficiencies (%)**	**Inadequate (%)**	**None (%)**
Legal frameworks in the boundaries	80	18	2	0
Legal frameworks in buffer zones	65	19	4	12 (no framework/ no buffer zone)
Legal framework in the broader setting	78	16	4	2
Legislation/regulation enforcement capacity	69	27	3	1

3.5.3 Management capacity

Most properties report high management capacity but there are still significant shortfalls, especially in mixed properties, the only category in which a greater proportion of properties report medium capacity than high capacity (Table 3.10).

Consideration needs to be given to providing additional/more targeted support to improve management capacity for those properties indicating low to no capacity. Further research could be considered to identify more specific management capacity needs and challenges in relation to property types, in order to adapt capacity-building programmes. For properties such as cities, or even cultural landscapes, the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape implementation guidance developed in 2020 would be relevant, as well as linking with other programmes such as Man and the Biosphere or UNESCO Global Geoparks cited in the Report or other UN programmes and international conventions.

Furthermore, translating existing training and guidance documents produced by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies into the national languages of those countries where English and French are not widely spoken should be considered not only for the benefit of managing institutions but also for all the other stakeholders. Many resources are available in Chinese and Korean but very little in other languages of the Asia and Pacific region. Also, positive management capacity and outcomes should be showcased, and best practices publicized at national, regional and international levels.

Table 3.10. *Management responses in the Asia and the Pacific region*

Category	**Management capacity (% reporting)**			
	High	Medium	Low	None
Culture	47	38	12	3
Mixed	39	46	11	3
Nature	51	31	14	4

3.5.4 Character and structure of governance and related tools

States Parties were invited to report on the management systems and plans of properties, the existence of management mechanisms and tools, and their relation to UNESCO or World Heritage policy documents. They were also invited to evaluate implementation practices at a regional and subregional basis.

Data provided show management mechanisms for cultural, mixed and natural properties are overwhelmingly public in character (92%) (Table 3.11). The majority (52%) of these mechanisms link national levels to local levels, particularly in North-East Asia. Public management of World Heritage properties at national level also is common in the region (23%). This could be explained, in part, by the fact that many States Parties in the region are relatively small with no or few administrative levels below the national government. Overall, these figures are highly encouraging as they demonstrate a predominance of joint management systems, considered as good practice for long-term conservation. However, the small number of properties benefiting from traditional (1%) and community management (1%) mechanisms stands out in a vast region rich in cultural and land-use diversity. The World Heritage Committee has encouraged greater traditional and community-focused management as a way to ensure broader engagement, leading to improved decision-making.

Table 3.11. *Q II.5.3.1: Please check the box(es) which most closely match the character of the governance and management system of the property*

Region/subregion	**Public management system at national level**	**Public management system of provincial regional**	**Public management system joint national/ local**	**Public management system joint regional/ local**	**Traditional management system**	**Local community management**	**Charitable management (e.g. by NGO)**	**Private ownership/ management**	**Other**
Asia and the Pacific	61	33	137	13	2	3	0	2	12
Central Asia	11	1	20	3	2	0	0	0	1
North-East Asia	15	4	69	6	0	0	0	1	3
Pacific	9	8	5	1	0	0	0	0	5
South Asia	9	14	29	3	0	1	0	0	2
South-East Asia	17	6	14	0	0	2	0	1	1

3.5.5 Management tools

Respondents were further invited to report on the correlation between management mechanisms and 18 tools, as well as evaluate the interaction between stakeholders. The suggested tools can be divided into four broad groups:

- Regulatory and statutory frameworks
- Community and traditional practices focusing on stakeholders
- Management and thematic management plans
- Economic development

The North-East Asia subregion reports on the use of the greatest variety of management tools, followed by South-East Asia, the Pacific, South Asia and Central Asia.

The management tools most frequently utilized are:

- Statutory management plans or zoning plans for the property, followed by:
- Management plans
- Annual work plans or business plans
- Visitor/visitation management plans
- Governance mechanisms that foster and respect traditional practices, knowledge and uses of the property
- Mechanisms to promote equal participation among and within groups, including different levels of authority, local communities, Indigenous people, women and men and other specific groups, and
- Integrated management plans combining World Heritage and any other designations

There is a clear focus on management per se and, interestingly, on communities and other stakeholders.

3.5.6 Adequacy of management systems/plans to maintain OUV, and their implementation

Respondents indicate 'full adequate management systems' by a wide margin (75%) followed by a rating of 'partially adequate' (22%). This is also reflected in the actual implementation of management systems, with 73% of management systems/plans implemented, followed by partially implemented systems and plans (25%), both totalling 98%.

The data shows that when management plans/systems exist they are always implemented. There are hardly any occurrences of properties with no management systems; however, developing missing management mechanisms should be a priority. Subregional trends show North-East Asia reporting the largest implementation rate, followed by South Asia, South-East Asia, the Pacific and Central Asia. The existence of systems and plans to manage and their implementation is correlated to the effective coordination between various levels of administration. Here again, the data show a very high level of coordination (61%), to coordination which could be improved (37%), both adding up to 98%.

Very few properties report a complete absence of coordination; however, as there are occurrences, addressing this issue should be a priority. Subregional trends show North-East Asia is the subregion with the largest implementation rate, followed by South Asia, Central Asia, South-East Asia, and the Pacific.

Respondents were also asked to provide information on the existence and the implementation of work plans or action plans. The results are similar in terms of positive responses. Respondents reported that 44% of annual work/actions plans 'exist and many activities are implemented', while 43% reported that plans 'exist and all activities are implemented'. This should be considered as positive. The overall total positive implementation rate of action plans is 88%. Subregional distribution results equally show high management implementation capacity in North-East Asia and South Asia. Only 1% of properties report that they do not have work/action plans and that none is needed.

3.5.7 Formal mechanisms and procedures to ensure participation and contribution of different groups in management decisions

Respondents equally provided information on whether management systems included formal mechanisms and procedures that ensure participation and contributions from a wide variety of different groups, such as local communities and authorities, landowners, Indigenous peoples, women and other groups (see Figure 3.6). Responses indicate 'some participation' to 'direct participation' for all groups, with a higher ranking for local authorities 'directly' participating and an equal rate for the other group 'somewhat' participating. These results are fairly positive, as stakeholder participation in decision-making processes is considered vital, not only for ensuring adequate conservation but also adequate development, avoiding conflicting priorities within World Heritage properties and beyond at local, regional or national levels.

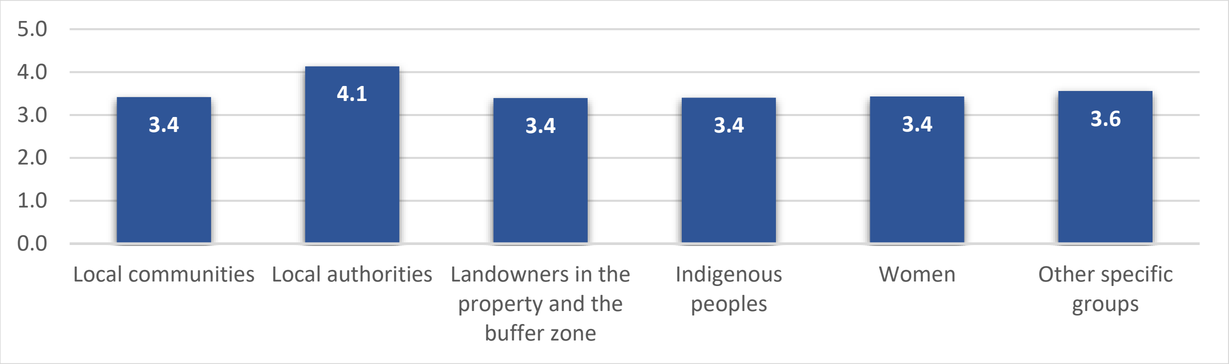


***Figure 3.6**. Q II.5.3.15: Does the management system include formal mechanisms and procedures that ensure participation and contribution of the following groups, living within or near the World Heritage property and/or buffer zone in management decisions that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value of the property?*

3.5.8 Formal mechanisms and the cooperation and relationship between properties, and between managing entities

Throughout the subregions, respondents reported on formal mechanisms and the cooperation and relationship between properties, and between managing entities and different groups, in a very similar way, with almost all scoring within the 3.7–4.3 range. At the regional level, only local communities and municipal authorities showed a markedly higher score at 4.6 and 4.7, respectively (2 = Non-existent / 5 = Good).

Local authorities' involvement in and relationship with management entities is strongest in North-East Asia and South-East Asia, whereas landowners' involvement is strongest in the Pacific, which is probably linked to Indigenous and traditional ownership and custodianship. It is worth noting that reasonable cooperation between researchers and management entities is reported at the regional level. This being a very important topic that goes beyond World Heritage property management, further research could define participation in relation to types of properties and in relation to the greater development objectives.

Community participation is a key element of the Convention put forward in Article 5 (a) on the role and function of heritage in the life of communities. It is also one of the 5 Cs of the Convention, and inclusive participation of different groups are priorities of several UNESCO standard-setting documents such as the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape or other culture conventions and UNESCO programmes. They are equally at the centre of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international documents such as the New Urban Agenda (UN-Habitat).

3.5.9 Use of UNESCO standard-setting documents, World Heritage policies and strategies

Section II of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire requested information on the use of several standard-setting documents, such as the UNESCO 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL), the Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change and the Strategy for Reducing Risks from Disasters at World Heritage properties. The questionnaires also asked respondents to rate the extent to which management systems contribute towards achieving the objectives of the World Heritage Committee's Policy for the Integration of a Sustainable Development perspective into the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

Regarding the 2011 HUL Recommendation and the Climate Change document, a large majority of respondents replied they had been of no use at all and/or that they were irrelevant (71% for HUL and 61% for Climate Change (Figure 3.7 and Figure 3.8, respectively). Respondents report the use of these tools to a certain degree (29% HUL/39% Climate Change). This result could be considered as encouraging, given that the initiative to use these policy documents is rarely taken at site level because their implementation is mostly top-down as they require complex multi-stakeholder engagement capacities. Moreover, they touch upon areas strongly linked to development and imply changing paradigms, as well addressing conflicting agendas revolving around heritage vs development.

The Risk Reduction policy document is reported to have been much more utilized (somewhat used: 54% and fully used: 8%). Overall, the North-East Asia region reports the strongest application of the standard-setting documents, policies and strategies.

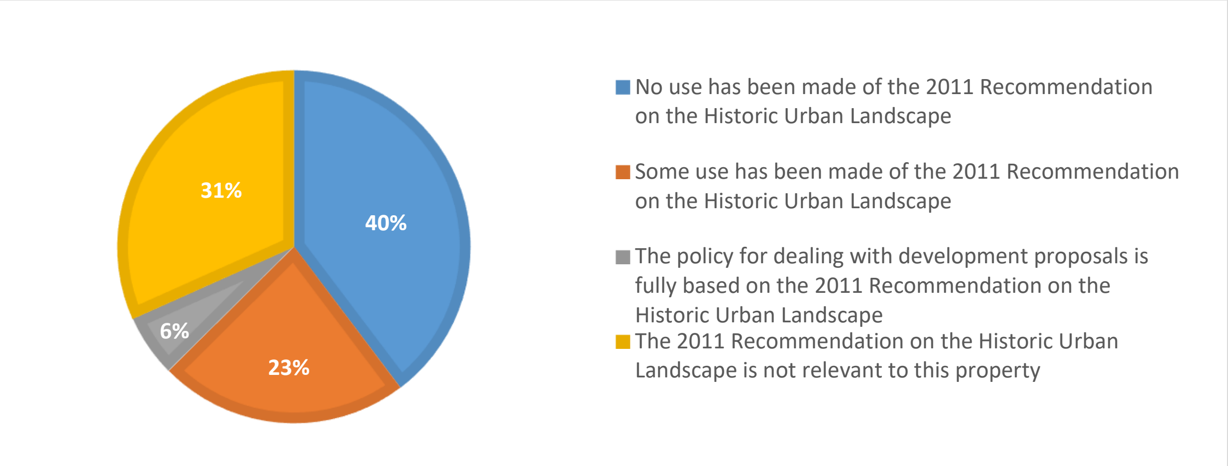


Figure 3.7. *Q II.5.3.5: Has any use been made of the 2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape in developing policies and best practices for the protection of this property?*

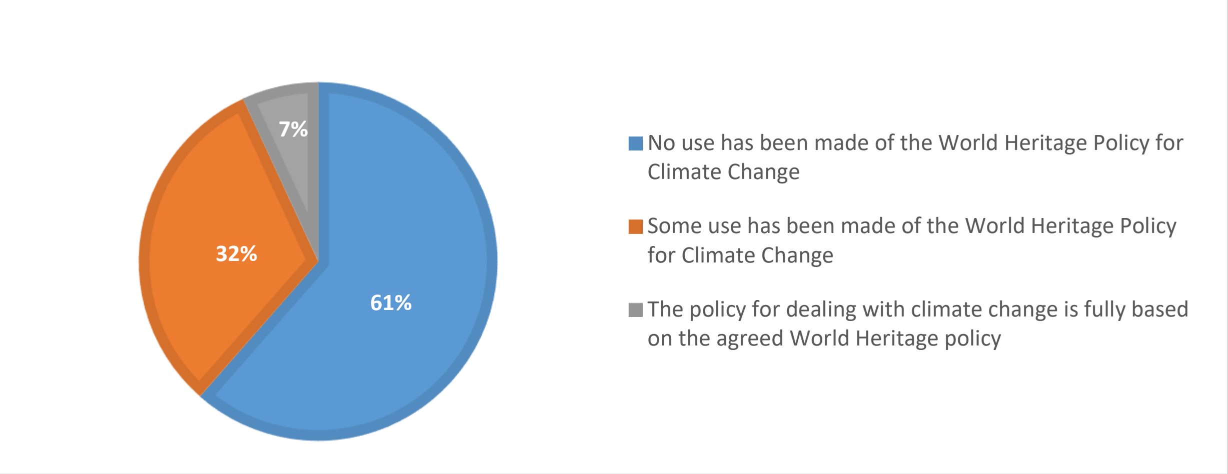


Figure 3.8*. Q II.5.3.7: Has any use been made of the Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties at the property?*

Regarding sustainable development policy and the contribution of management systems towards the six Goals (i.e. gender equality; provision of ecosystem services/benefits to the local community; social inclusion and equality; human-rights based approach; inclusive local economic development; conflict prevention), 28 out of the 30 possible data points (6 goals x 5 subregions) cluster tightly between the values of 3.7 and 4.3 (2 = no contribution/5 = full achievement). At the overall regional level, gender equality receives the lowest score at 3.8, while the other goals have rating of either 3.9 or 4.0, with a slightly lower rating at the regional level.

Upon examining the comments on management factors affecting the property either negatively or positively (Q 4.13.9), discussed in 3.4.4., several of the instruments/policy documents/strategies referred to in this section come into play. A significant number of examples provided by respondents refer to activities linking conservation to development, management, governance and sustainable approaches, which are all core to the 2011 HUL Recommendation and to the sustainable development policy. While the connections are not fully acknowledged in the examples provided, one can see that they are indeed being made. Respondents to future Periodic Reporting questionnaires should be encouraged to give full consideration to these linkages when providing examples.

The absence of explicit linkages made between the respondents' examples of management factors affecting the property and the application of various policies/strategies being encouraged for World Heritage properties suggests a need to improve understanding of how management may already be contributing to their application.

Similarly, understanding types of positive and negative impacts would contribute to strengthening management and conservation interventions and to developing valuable material for case studies. When considering the strengthening of management, conservation and impact assessment practices, care should be taken to ensure they are sensitive to the different types of heritage (cities, cultural landscapes, forests, marine etc.).

3.5.10 Final observations on the protection and management of properties and outlook

As in section 3.4, data provided by respondents under section 3.5 of the questionnaire reveal an overwhelmingly positive application of management practices, tools, coordination mechanisms and progressively greater involvement of different groups and stakeholders. The adequacy of boundaries and buffer zones has been highlighted by the majority of properties, while approximately one-fifth of the properties identified room for improvement. Overall, the North-East Asia subregion tended to show stronger management capacity.

Regarding instruments, tools and policy documents, probably because most are aimed at national level, there is a need for more awareness raising and training, as on-site activities do indeed show projects that are in line with the approaches advocated by these instruments.

The data analysis of this section, as also shown in section 3.4, suggests avenues for practical research. These would help identify gaps, challenges and needs, which would benefit safeguarding, conservation and management practices, as well as the development of targeted management tools and interventions.

Translating training and guidance documents produced by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies into national languages should be considered, not only for the benefit of management agencies but also for all other relevant stakeholders.

Also, all the topics addressed in this section mainly reveal positive outcomes in management, which should be showcased and publicized at national, regional and international levels.

3.6 Human and financial resources

3.6.1 Funding

Funding usually comes in two forms – running/operational costs and project/development costs. In all cases, funding of World Heritage properties is made up from different sources (Table 3.12).

***Table 3.12**. Q 6.1.1: Funding sources for World Heritage properties – Running Costs (in % of responses)*

Running costs	Central Asia	North-East Asia	Pacific	South Asia	South-East Asia	Total
Multilateral funding (GEF, World Bank, etc.)	0.8	0.0	0.0	1.1	0.6	0.4
Bilateral international funding	9.1	0.0	5.0	0.3	0.0	2.4

World Heritage Fund (International Assistance)	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
Contribution from other conventions and programmes	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
International donations (NGOs, foundations, etc.)	8.3	0.0	0.0	1.0	2.8	2.0
Governmental (national/ federal)	48.4	36.8	20.8	62.4	45.8	44.8
Governmental (regional/ provincial/ state)	19.7	12.6	42.5	26.1	26.2	22.4
Governmental (local/ municipal)	1.5	30.0	0.0	1.8	3.0	9.7
In-country donations (NGOs, foundations, etc.)	1.3	1.9	0.0	0.4	0.5	0.7
Individual visitor charges (e.g. entry, toilets, parking, camping fees, etc.)	8.9	13.2	5.4	6.3	13.7	10.4
Commercial activities (e.g. merchandising and catering, filming permit, concessions, etc.)	0.7	2.1	1.3	0.1	5.4	1.7
Other	0.6	3.3	25.0	0.6	2.0	5.4

***Table 3.13**. Q 6.1.1: Funding sources for World Heritage properties – Project costs (in % of responses)*

Project costs	Central Asia	North-East Asia	Pacific	South Asia	South-East Asia	Total
Multilateral funding (GEF, World Bank, etc.)	0.8	1.6	0.2	10.5	1.0	3.6
Bilateral international funding	9.0	7.3	4.2	0.3	2.5	5.6
World Heritage Fund (International Assistance)	0.8	0.0	24.2	0.0	2.3	4.5
Contribution from other conventions and programmes	0.0	0.3	2.0	0.0	3.4	1.0
International donations (NGOs, foundations, etc.)	8.3	0.0	0.6	1.0	2.5	2.1
Governmental (national/federal)	47.5	55.0	37.6	51.5	54.9	50.9
Governmental (regional/provincial/state)	19.9	9.6	19.2	24.1	18.5	16.3
Governmental (local/municipal)	1.5	18.6	0.0	2.1	3.8	6.7
In-country donations (NGOs, foundations, etc.)	2.3	0.2	3.4	0.5	2.0	1.4
Individual visitor charges (e.g. entry, toilets, parking, camping fees, etc.)	8.8	4.6	4.0	9.1	7.4	5.9
Commercial activities (e.g. merchandising and catering, filming permit, concessions, etc.)	0.7	0.6	4.0	0.3	0.6	1.1
Other	0.6	2.1	0.6	0.5	0.9	0.9

Only 35% of properties report that they enjoy adequate funding. Overall, the comment trend is that any increase in funding would be welcomed by site managers.

For most of the subregions, both project and running costs are largely dependent upon domestic funding (95.95% and 92.27% of the properties, respectively), a trend similar to that in the Second Cycle (Figure 3.9a and b). International funding is targeted more at projects, and domestic funding at running costs.

In South-East Asia, more properties avail themselves of international funding (47.06% against the average 20.27%) for both projects and running. More properties in North-East Asia use private funding for running costs (66.67% against the average 53.18%), as in the Second Cycle.

In the Pacific, not all properties could specify funding sources, perhaps indicating that the task was too time demanding or complex. Funding sources varied across the subregion, with sourcing ascribed to either government, tourism revenue, some commercial activity, or external sources (such as via donor organizations) or a mixture of these sources. This variation reflects the significant disparity between the relative funding capacities of Australia and New Zealand when compared with the Pacific SIDS.

Instability with core funding and budgets could be traced to the major reductions in paying visitors because of the COVID-19 pandemic travel restrictions, or the occurrence of significant events such as extensive wildfires that require substantial management responses or changes in access arrangements for properties.

With help from the World Heritage Fund (International Assistance), nine properties report using funds for projects, three each in the Pacific and South-East Asia, and two properties for running costs, both in Central Asia.

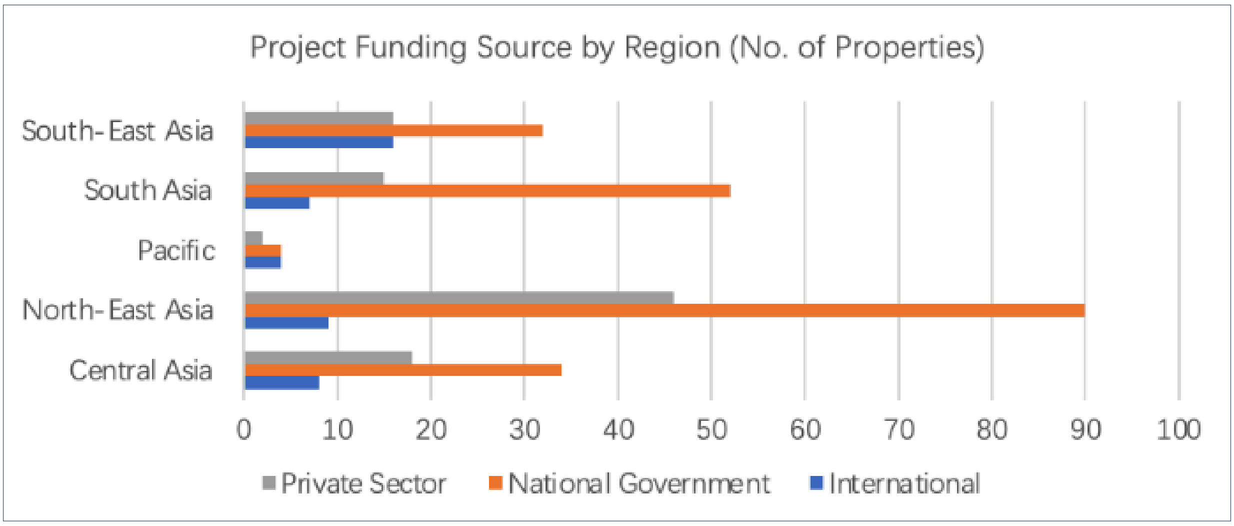


Figure 3.9a*. Proportion of private/public national/international funding for World Heritage properties by subregion – projects and running costs.*

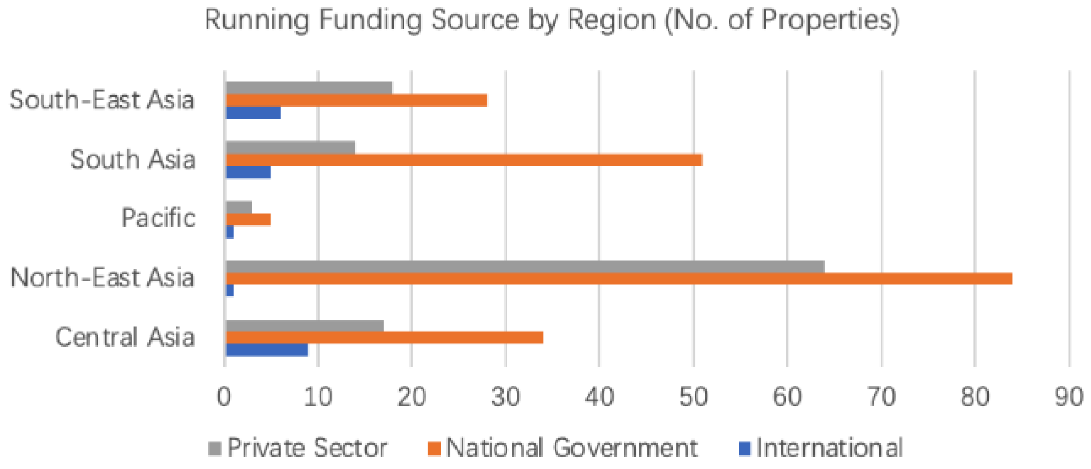


***Figure 3.9b**. Proportion of Private / Public National / International funding for World Heritage properties by subregion – running costs.*

3.6.2 Budget sufficiency

Generally, over half (55.7%) of the properties report an 'acceptable' budget which could be further improved to meet management needs, while over one-third (35.5%) report an 'adequate' budget (Figure 3.10a). Among the 93 properties that report an 'adequate' budget, 39 are in North-East Asia, a trend similar to the Second Cycle (Figure 3.10b).

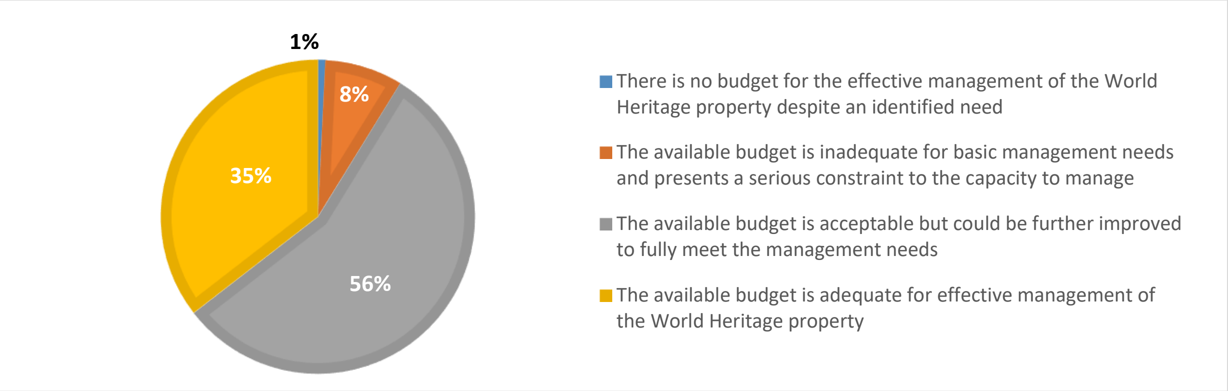


***Figure 3.10a**. Q II.6.1.3: Is the current budget sufficient to manage the World Heritage property effectively?*

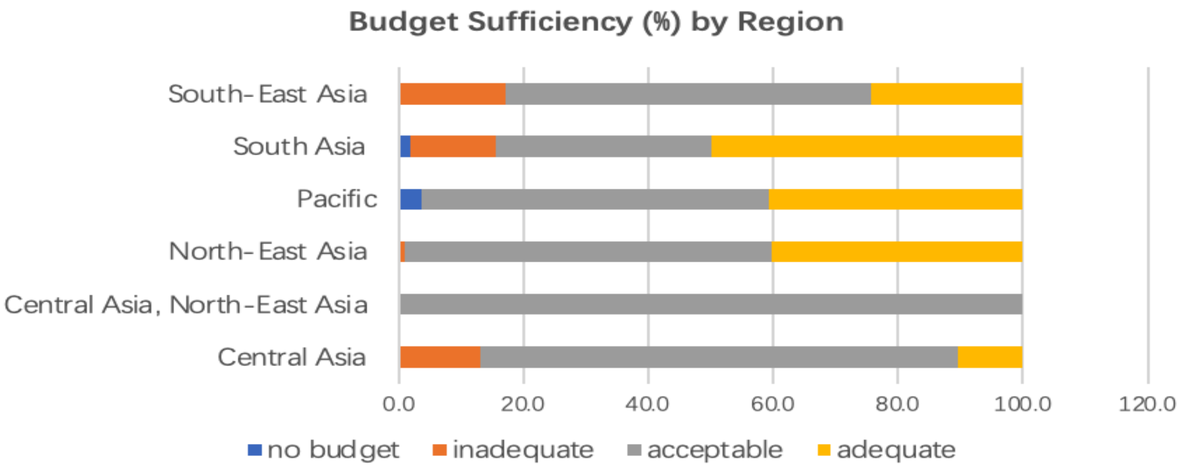


***Figure 3.10b.** Budget sufficiency (%) by region.*

Current levels of funding appear to be relatively secure, with 90% of properties reporting that their funds are secure over the medium and long term, or plans are in place to make them secure (Figure 3.11a).

Just over half (53%) believe that the existing sources of funding are secure over both the medium and long term, while for over one-third (37%) planning is underway to secure funding over the long term. One-tenth report that the existing sources of funding are not secure.

North-East Asia accounts for the majority in confidence over both the medium- and long-term security of funding sources (57 out of 138) (Figure 3.11b).

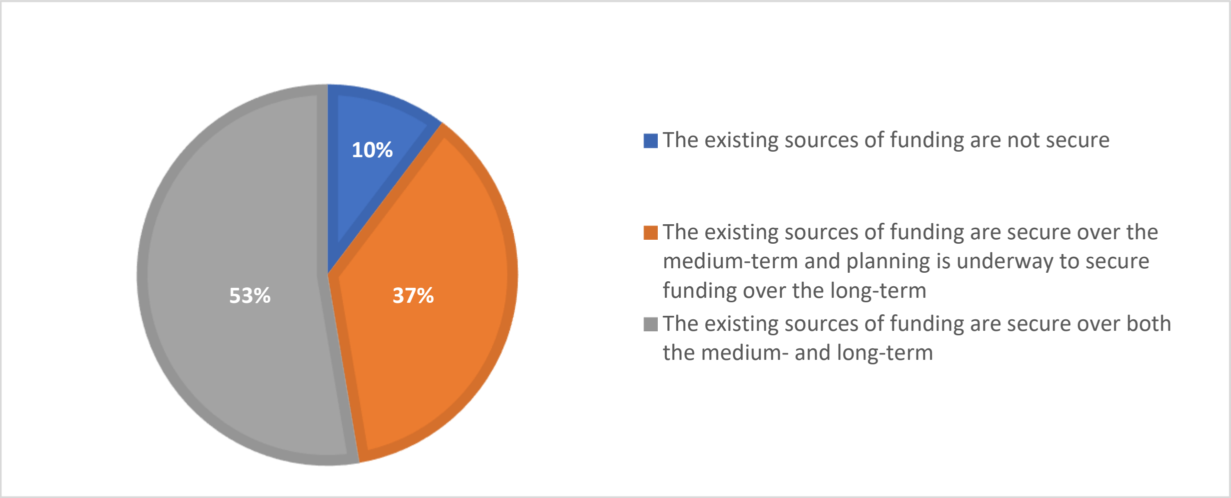


***Figure 3.11a**. Q II.6.1.4: Are the existing sources of funding secure and likely to remain so?*

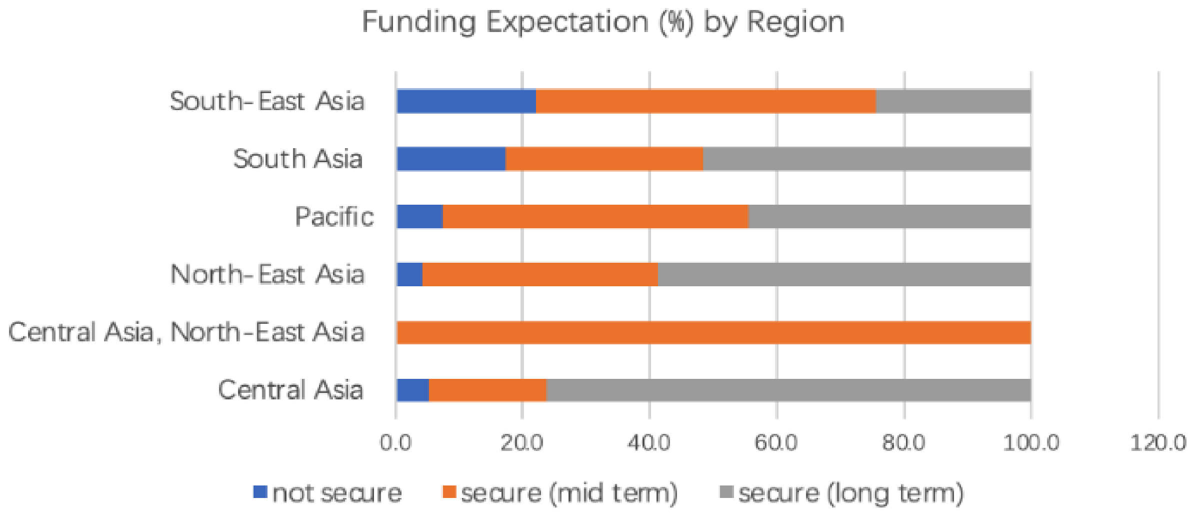


***Figure 3.11b**. Funding expectation (%) by region.*

3.6.3 Human resources

In terms of human resources, most properties report that staffing levels are adequate or partly adequate to protect the World Heritage properties, with only 6% of properties suffering from inadequate staff levels. Shortage of staff is greatest in the Pacific and Central Asian regions. It is satisfying that properties are able to meet most of their staffing needs from local communities (Figure 3.12), but more men are engaged than women, especially in Central Asia and South Asia. Men also hold more senior positions. The proportions of men to women are unchanged, whether from local communities or recruited from elsewhere. In the Pacific, whether site management staff were drawn from a local area or local communities was influenced by factors such as access, remoteness, presence of any local communities, etc. Gender inclusion and male/female ratios were largely typified by even representation for most properties.

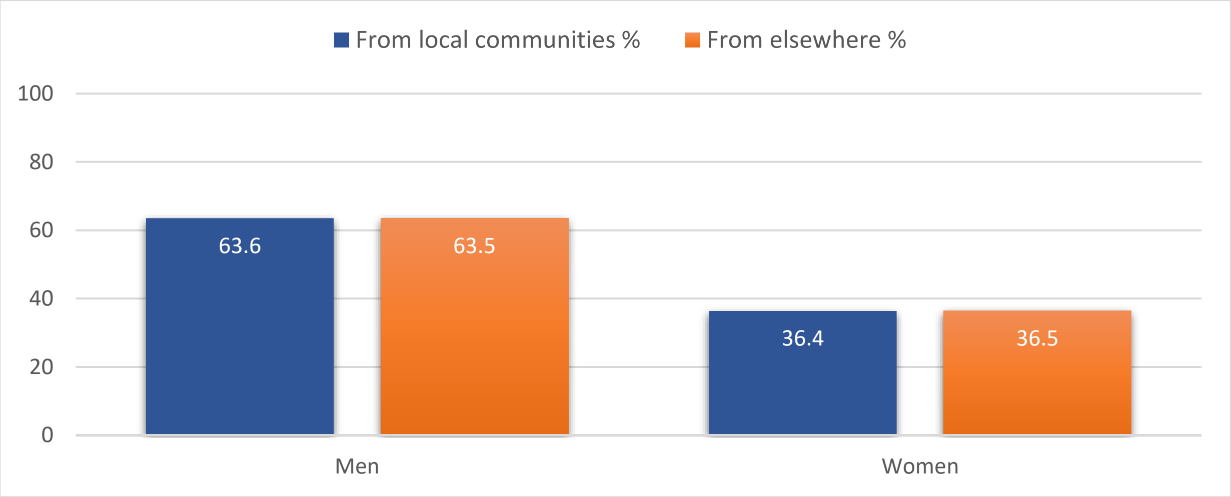


***Figure 3.12**. Q II.6.1.6: Estimate the distribution of men and women involved in the management, conservation, interpretation of the World Heritage properties and the extent to which they are drawn from local communities.*

3.6.4 Management needs

With regard to managing the property, the greatest reported need was in the area of marketing and promotion (average 2.7), and the most available in conservation (average 3.6). Of all the management needs, South-East Asia scores top in six disciplines, and North-East Asia in five (Figure 3.13).

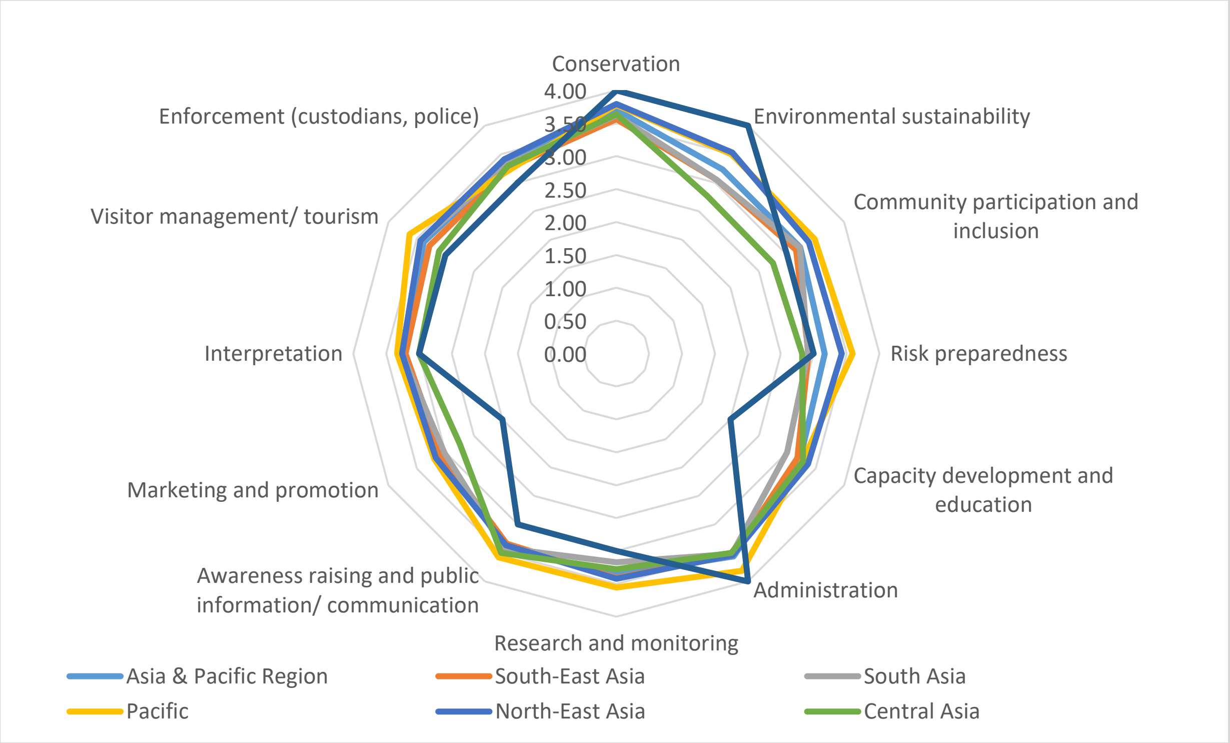


***Figure 3.13**. Q II.6.1.8: Considering the management needs of the World Heritage property, please rate the availability of professionals.*

Properties report the best training opportunities for conservation and administration (both 3.2) and least for risk preparedness and marketing and promotion (both 2.7) (Figure 3.14).

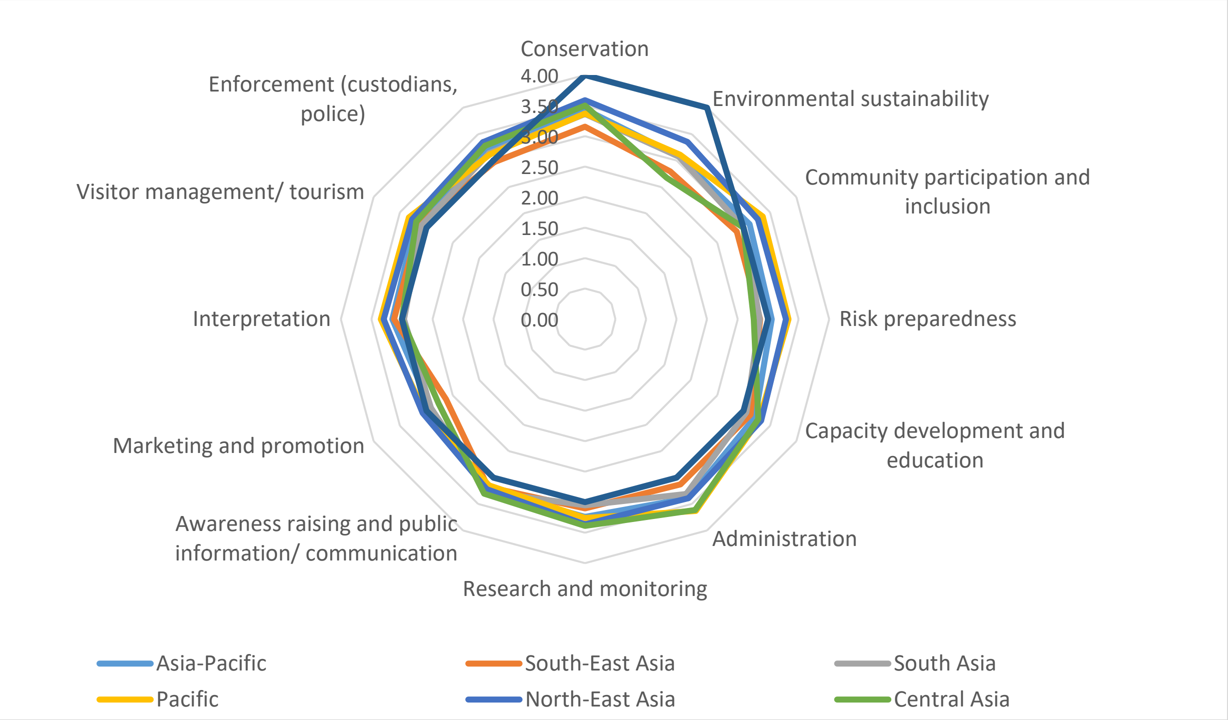


***Figure 3.14**. Q II.6.1.9: Please rate the availability of training opportunities for the management of the World Heritage property.*

3.6.5 Capacity-Building strategy

Nearly half of the properties report some use of World Heritage Strategy for Capacity Building (48%), while over one-third report none (35%) (Figure 3.15). In the Pacific subregion, there is generally limited uptake of the World Heritage Strategy for Capacity Building, as capacity development for most properties is often demand-driven and there is a preference for localized guidelines and approaches to address site-specific and staff-specific needs. Less than one-fifth (17%) believe their training and capacity building is fully based on the World Heritage Strategy for Capacity Building.

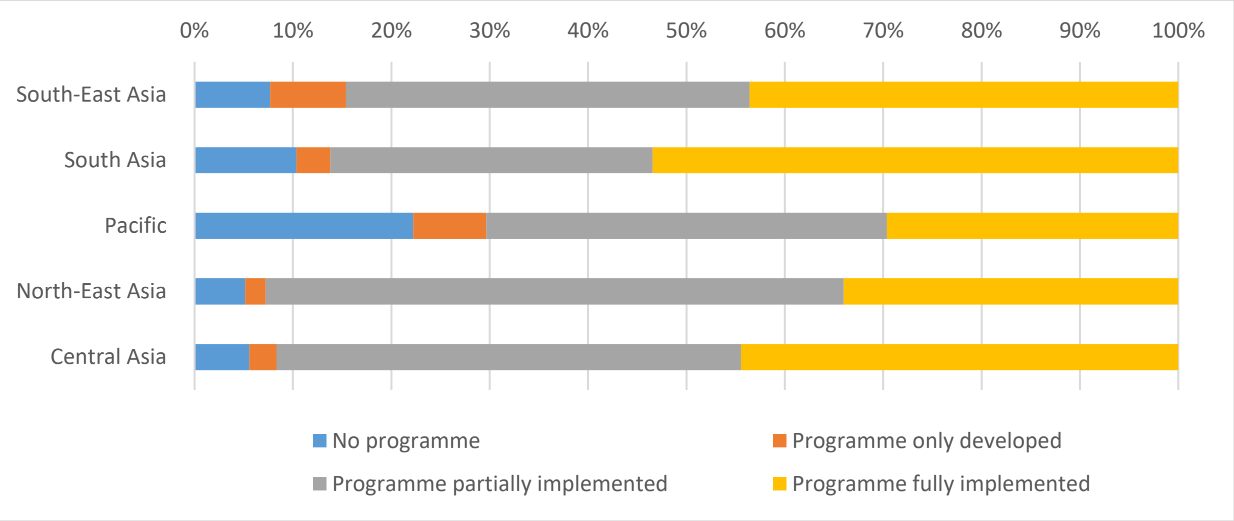


***Figure 3.15**. Q II.6.1.10: Has any use been made of the World Heritage Strategy for Capacity Building at the property?*

As for site-specific capacity building programmes, nearly half (47%) the properties report that a programme is in place and partially implemented. Less than one-tenth report no programme. North-East Asia accounts for most of the properties with a 'partially' (57) and 'fully' (33) implemented programme.

3.7 Scientific studies and research projects

The aim of this section is to gather information on the adequacy of available knowledge (both scientific and traditional) regarding the values and attributes of World Heritage properties and the existence of research programmes directed towards management needs and/or the improvement in understanding the OUV.

Out of a total of 262 sites for which authorities responded, 135 (52%) agree that knowledge about the values and attributes of the World Heritage property is adequate. A total of 119 agree that the knowledge about the values and attributes of the World Heritage property is acceptable for most key areas but there are gaps. Authorities identified eight sites (one from Australia, two from Pakistan, one from Nepal, one from Indonesia, one from Lao PDR, and two from Myanmar) where the knowledge about the values and attributes of the World Heritage property is insufficient.

According to data provided, 139 properties have a comprehensive, integrated programme of research, which is relevant to management needs and/or improving understanding of OUV. A total of 97 properties conduct considerable research, but it is not directed towards management needs and/or improving understanding of OUV (Figure 3.16).

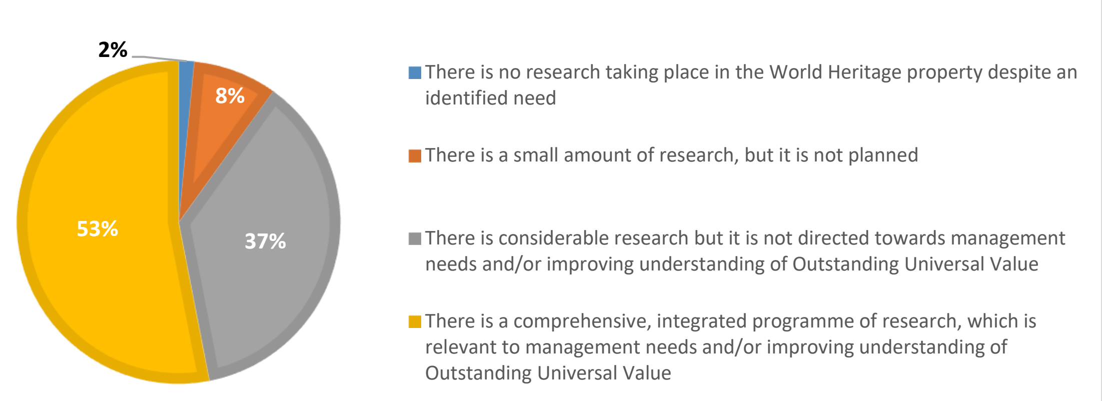


***Figure 3.16**. Q 7.2: Is there a planned programme of research at the property which is directed towards management needs and/or improving understanding of Outstanding Universal Value?*

When asked about the dissemination of research results, responses were that the results of 12 properties are not shared at any level; results of 27 properties are shared with local communities and partners but there is no active outreach to national or international agencies; results of 109 properties are shared with local communities and some national agencies; and results of 114 properties are shared widely, with active outreach to local communities and national and international audiences.

3.8 Education, information and awareness raising

The aim of this section is to gather information on the existence and effectiveness of heritage education and awareness programmes at the property, as well as general services dedicated to education, information, interpretation and awareness building.

The awareness and understanding of the existence and justification for inscription of the World Heritage property among the local communities, local and municipal authorities, Indigenous peoples, landowners, women, youth/children, researchers, local visitors, national international tourists, tourism industry, local business and industries and NGOs are rated 'fair' or 'good' by the majority of sites.

A total of 124 properties have planned and effective education and awareness programme for children and youth that contributes to the protection of the World Heritage property (Figure 3.17).

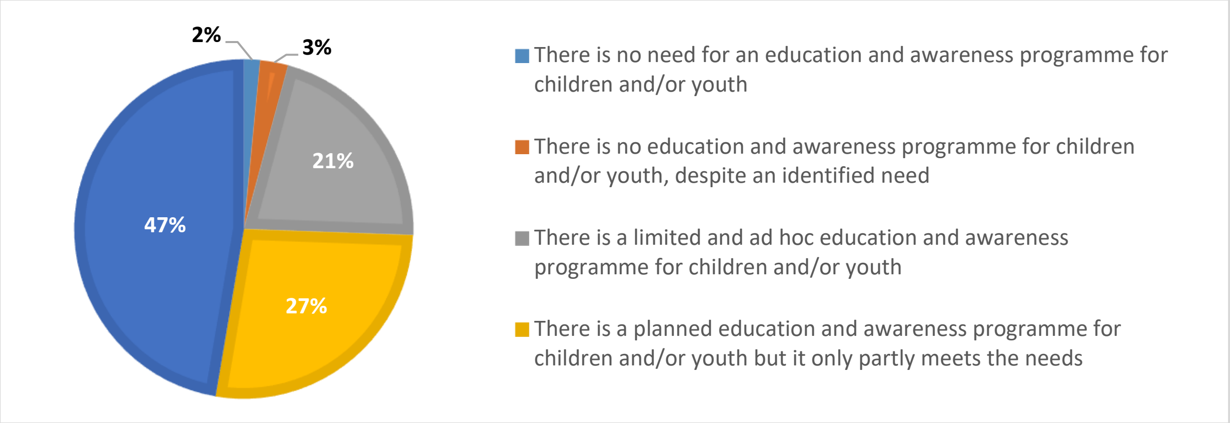


Figure 3.17. *Q 8.2: Does the property have a heritage education programme(s) for children and/or youth that can contribute to a better understanding of heritage, promote diversity and foster intercultural dialogue?*

Of the 262 sites, target audiences for education and awareness programmes are as follows: local communities (242); local and municipal authorities (197); Indigenous peoples (119); landowners (154); women (193); youth/children (245); researchers (184); local visitors (228); national international tourists (221); tourism industry (204); local business and industries (169); and NGOs (148). It is interesting to note the high level of attention paid to local communities, youth/children and visitors.

Visitor facilities provided in terms of visitor centres, site museums, information booths, guided tours, trails/routes, printed information materials, online data and transport facilities available at sites are rated 'poor', 'fair' or 'good'.

3.9 Visitor management

3.9.1 Estimated annual visitor numbers

In comparison with the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, the estimated annual visitor numbers show a significant decrease in 2020 due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. More than 70% of the properties (192 properties) in APA region have experienced a decrease in annual visitation in 2020. The impact of the pandemic has varied widely among subregions, with North-East Asia remaining relatively stable and Central Asia experiencing the greatest decline (Figure 3.18).

In the Pacific, visitation to properties has decreased significantly since 2020 with the COVID-19 pandemic like other subregions but has also triggered some corollary spikes in domestic tourism. Natural disaster events have also affected site accessibility and visitation patterns.

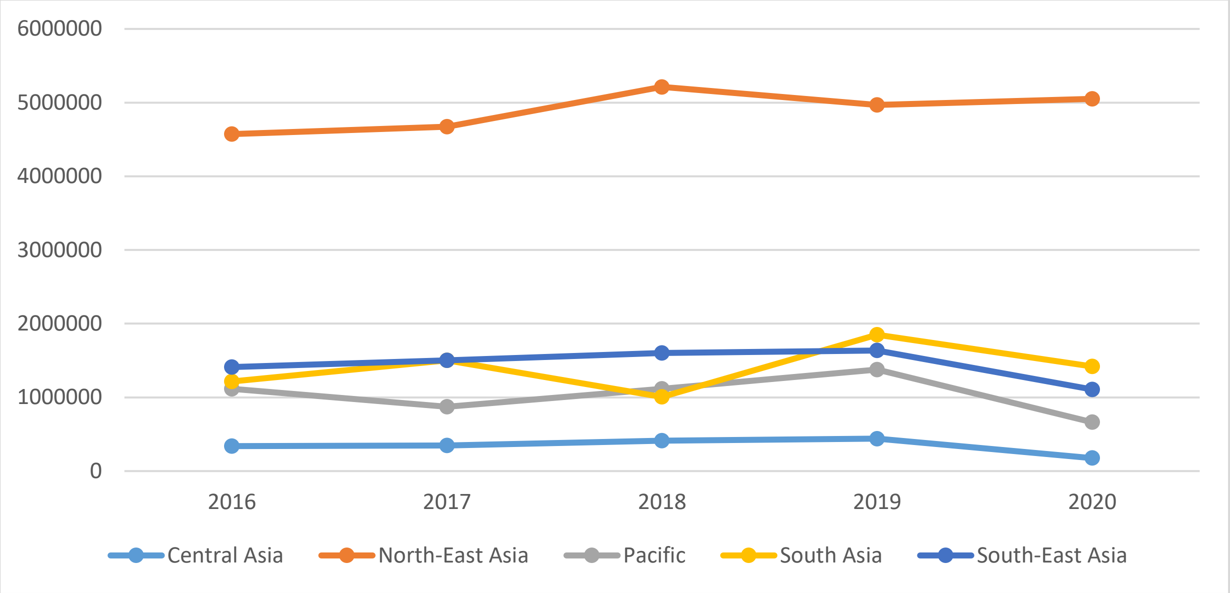


Figure 3.18. *Q II.9.1: Please provide estimated annual visitor numbers (including national and international visitors) since the last Periodic Report.*

3.9.2 Information sources

Entry tickets and registries and visitor surveys are the most common sources of visitor statistics, followed by tourism industry and accommodation establishments (Table 3.14). In the Pacific, visitor information is collected via broad sourcing methods, with a high degree of estimation involved given the lack of defined metrics (apart from some properties where 'gateway' access or permitting allows for more precise visitor data capture).

It is also shown that 42% of the properties rely on only one information source, which might result in some statistical inaccuracy.

Table 3.14. *Q II.9.2: What information sources are used to collect visitor statistics?*

Region/Subregion	Central Asia	North-East Asia	Pacific	South Asia	South-East Asia	Total
Entry tickets and registries	32	82	19	52	39	224
Accommodation establishments	13	27	4	12	18	74
Transportation services	9	27	4	9	11	60
Tourism industry	15	34	8	18	17	92
Visitor surveys	17	38	14	27	14	110
Other	2	13	18	5	3	41

Most visits are for a few hours or a day, with only 36% reported as overnight stays, especially in the Pacific region where remote or small island properties are involved (Figure 3.19). The average stay times may also relate to expenditure aspects such as required entry fees. In the Pacific, there is a wide variation on the length of stay, given the diversity of drivers and resources for visitors at each property.

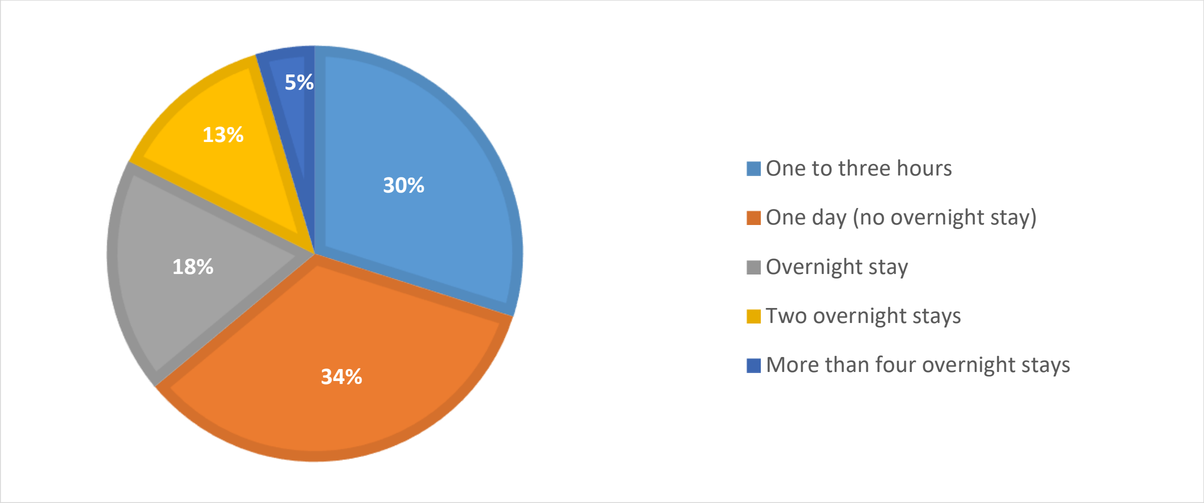


***Figure 3.19**. Q II.9.3: What is the average length stay of a visitor to the World Heritage property?*

3.9.3 Management plan/system and monitoring

Most properties report that they have an effective strategy in place to manage visitors (50%) or have a system that has some deficiencies in implementation. Only 10% of properties report that there is no system to manage visitors or a system that is not being implemented (Figure 3.20).

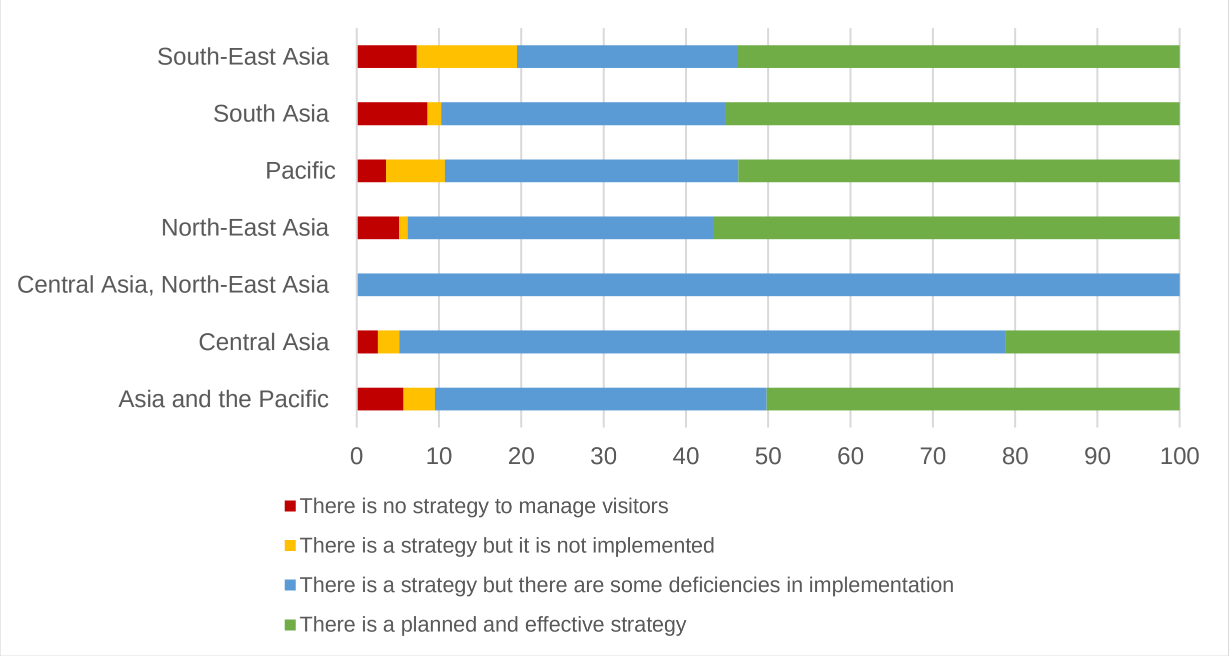


***Figure 3.20**. Q II.9.7: Does the management system/plan for the World Heritage property include a strategy with an action plan to manage visitors, tourism activity and its derived economic, socio-cultural and environmental impacts?*

A similar pattern is reported as to whether the visitor use is controlled, so as not to negatively impact OUV (Table 3.15).

***Table 3.15.** Q 9.9: Is visitor use effectively managed to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value of the property?*

Region/Subregion	Visitor use of the World Heritage property is not being actively managed despite an identified need (no. of properties)	There is some management of the visitor use of the World Heritage property (no. of properties)	Visitor use of the World Heritage property is managed but improvements could be made (no. of properties)	Visitor use of the World Heritage property is effectively managed and does not impact its Outstanding Universal Value (no. of properties)
Asia and the Pacific	8	16	91	147
Central Asia	0	4	14	19
North-East Asia	2	6	29	61
Pacific	1	1	12	14
South Asia	1	5	18	34
South-East Asia	4	0	18	19

77% of the properties report that they use a visitor monitoring system, but only a small number use the UNESCO Tourism Management Assessment Tool. Language barriers might be a reason for the low usage of the tool.

There is room for improvement in monitoring of the effectiveness of tourism management. Apart from South Asia and Central Asia, more than 20% of the properties in the subregions do not have tourism management as a Monitoring Indicator (Figure 3.21).

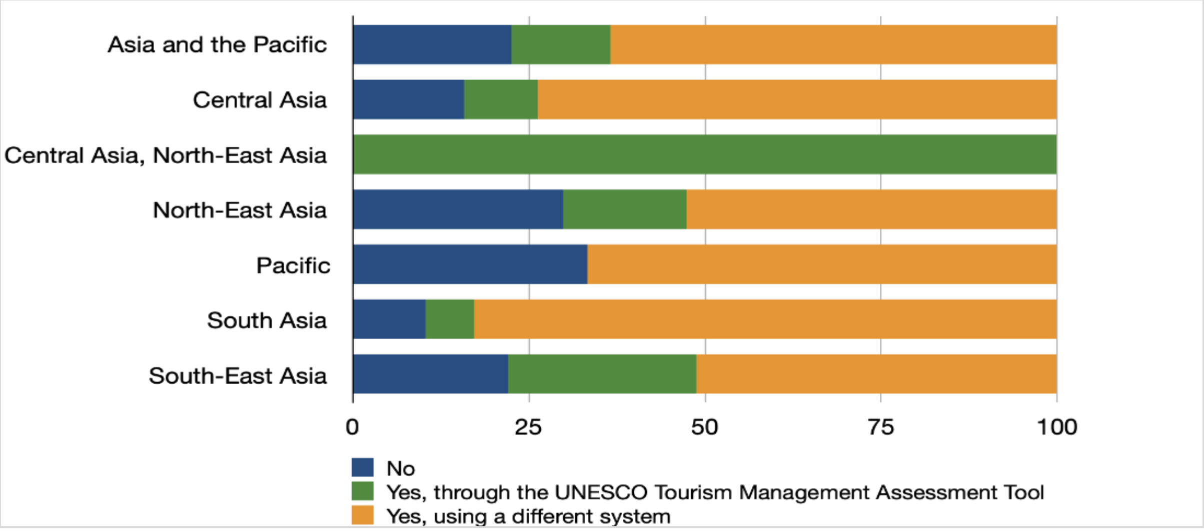


***Figure 3.21**. Q II.9.10: Is the effectiveness of tourism management regularly monitored?*

Cooperation between World Heritage management and the tourism industry is reported to be generally good (67%) or limited (19%) (Figure 3.22). In the Pacific, most properties have some degree of relationship with tourism industries, and also engage actively with local communities, providing or encouraging some form of local sustainable tourism initiatives and identifying multiple direct and indirect benefits that flow from effective management practices, visitation and expenditure.

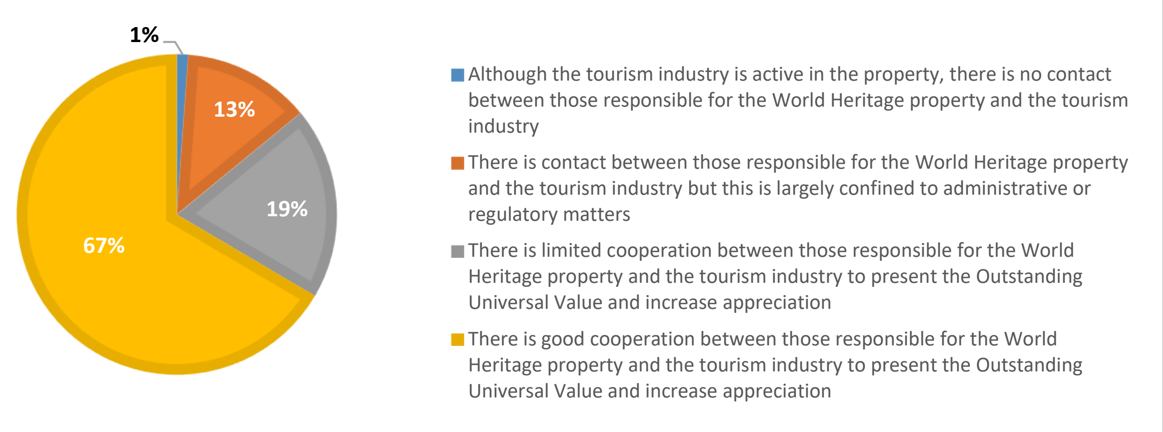


***Figure 3.22**. Q II.9.11: How does the tourism industry cooperate with the site management to improve visitor experiences and maintain the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property?*

Presentation of the properties is reported as generally good, with only 4% reporting inadequate or no presentation. 84% of the properties report that the World Heritage emblem is clearly displayed with 8% reporting that although displayed in multiple locations, these signs are not easily visible. Interpretation to improve understanding of OUV could be strengthened.

While 10% of the properties do not collect entry fees from visitors, most sites do contribute partially (40%) or substantially (37%) to World Heritage management costs; 13% collect fees which are not ploughed back into World Heritage management.

3.10 Monitoring

There has been an improvement of 10% from the second Periodic Reporting phase, with 68% of properties (356) reporting a comprehensive, integrated programme of monitoring (Table 3.16).

***Table 3.16.** Q II.10.1: Is there a monitoring programme at the property directed towards management needs and/or towards improving the understanding of the Outstanding Universal Value?*

Region/Subregion	**There is no monitoring taking place at the World Heritage property or buffer zone despite an identified need (no. of properties)**	**There is a small amount of monitoring, but it is not planned (no. of properties)**	**There is considerable monitoring but it is not directed towards management needs and/or improving the understanding of Outstanding Universal Value (no. of properties)**	**There is a comprehensive, integrated programme of monitoring, which is relevant to management needs and/or improving understanding of the Outstanding Universal Value (no. of properties)**
Asia and the Pacific	2	14	68	178
Central Asia	0	3	6	29
North-East Asia	0	3	21	74
Pacific	0	3	14	11
South Asia	1	0	20	37
South-East Asia	1	5	7	27

However, monitoring is not so closely based on key indicators identified for use in monitoring the maintenance of OUV and its attributes, and there is still a lot of room for improvement in this respect (Figure 3.33). Such indicators are more difficult to identify for natural properties. While existing monitoring plans are suitable for general management of properties, concern was expressed that monitoring apparatus for OUV is lacking despite it being considered an important issue. The sentiment was similar for novel management issues, such as climate change impacts, with both requiring additional resources to develop and implement suitable monitoring approaches.

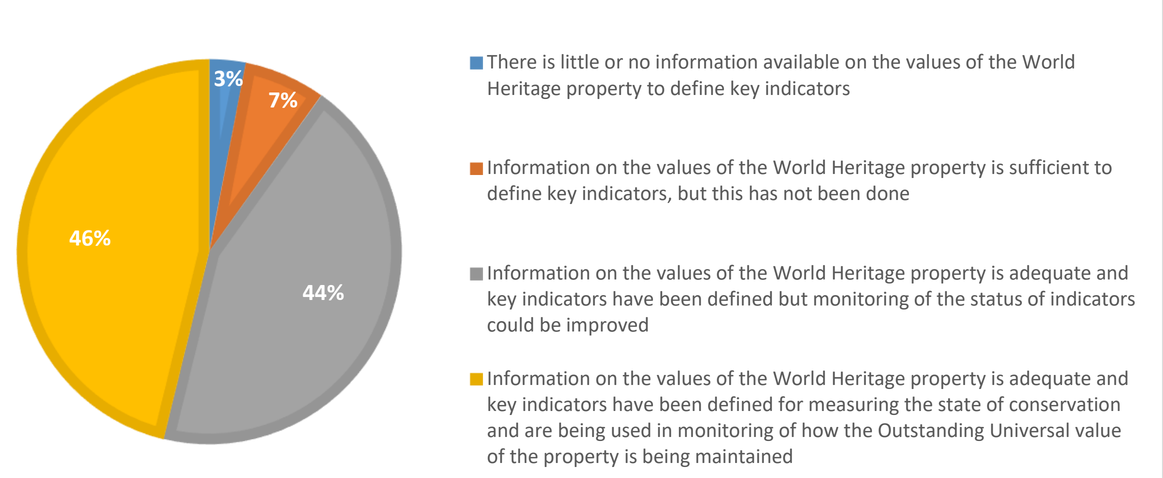


***Figure 3.23**. Q II.10.2: Is necessary information available in order to define key indicators for measuring the state of conservation and are they used in monitoring how the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is being maintained?*

There has been little change in the level of involvement in monitoring of various groups since the second Periodic Reporting phase. In the Pacific subregion, monitoring activity is undertaken by a broad cohort of groups, which may contribute to the gaps in effective monitoring activity where standardization was inferred as an issue. In other subregions, most monitoring is done by World Heritage managers/coordinators and staff with significant inputs by local/municipal authorities and researchers, and very little input from Indigenous people or industry (Table 3.17). Another group that could play a much bigger part in monitoring would be the visitors to World Heritage properties.

***Table 3.17.** Q II.10.5: Please rate the level of involvement in monitoring of the following groups*

Subregion/Region	**Central Asia**	**North-East Asia**	**Pacific**	**South Asia**	**South-East Asia**	**Total**
World Heritage managers/coordinators and staff	3.5	3.8	2.8	3.7	3.7	3.6
Local/municipal authorities	2.7	3.7	2.8	3.2	3.1	3.2
Local communities	2.7	3.1	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.9
Indigenous peoples	2.3	2.3	2.9	2.6	2.7	2.5
Landowners	2.5	3.2	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.8
Women	2.5	3.3	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9
Researchers	3.0	3.4	3.0	3.1	3.3	3.2
Tourism industry	2.8	2.7	2.8	3.0	3.0	2.9

Local businesses and industry	2.5	2.2	2.5	2.8	2.9	2.5
NGOs	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.1	2.8
Other specific groups	2.6	2.9	2.8	2.9	3.0	2.8

(1 = Non-existent, 2 = Poor, 3 = Fair, 4 = Good)

World Heritage managers should be encouraged to seek much more feedback from visitors about their impressions of maintenance of OUV – indeed, there is a growing trend worldwide towards the use of ‘citizen science’ for wider public reporting and documentation. There are many citizen science applications available for different topics; almost every visitor carries a smart phone and could be actively engaged.

3.11 Identification of priority management needs

While the reports indicate that management is generally good, there are certainly areas where it needs to be strengthened beyond mere funding. Systematic needs include ‘Boundaries could be improved’ for 17% of the properties, and buffer zones need improvement in 21% of the reported properties. With 87% of the properties reported as being managed by national and/or local government, there seems to be a great need for stronger involvement in management by local communities, civil society and/or NGOs. A need for greater coordination between the range of administrative bodies involved in management is reported by 37% of properties, and 22% report that the management system/plan is only partially adequate to maintain the property’s OUV. In addition, 25% report that the management system is being only partially implemented.

For the Pacific subregion, two broad themes are identified relating to priority management needs, namely: 1) capacity development to improve management’s ability to better understand, interpret and engage in existing World Heritage strategies and policies, and 2) novel issues such as climate change. The second priority was for enforcement capacity of legislation and regulation in the form of understanding jurisdictions and applying enforcement responses at property level.

Many management tools and guidelines are available but they are still underutilized. For instance, only 7% of properties report that the policy for dealing with climate change is fully based on the agreed World Heritage policy. Only 8% report that the risk management policy is fully based on the agreed Strategy for Reducing Risks from Disasters at World Heritage Properties.

Reporting on the specific needs for professional expertise gives a general indication of where management needs are greatest. In this case, the different subregions show a similar pattern of needs but ‘Marketing and promotion’, together with ‘Capacity development and education’, appear to be the most pressing perceived needs. It is also evident that the need for ‘Environmental sustainability’ and ‘Community participation and inclusion’ is most acute in the Central Asian subregion (Table 3.18). Respondents also report ‘Marketing and promotion’ together with ‘Risk preparedness’ as the two subjects for which they have the least training opportunities available. Only 17% of reports claim to have fully utilized the World Heritage Strategy for Capacity Building. Language may be a major reason for the low take-up.

Table 3.18. *Q II.6.1.8: Considering the management needs of the World Heritage property, please rate the availability of professionals in the following disciplines*

Subregion/Region	**Central Asia**	**North-East Asia**	**Pacific**	**South Asia**	**South-East Asia**	**Total**
Conservation	3.4	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.6
Environmental sustainability	2.7	3.7	3.1	2.7	3.2	3.2

Community participation and inclusion	2.4	3.4	3.5	3.1	3.2	3.1
Risk preparedness	2.9	3.3	3.2	2.6	3.1	3.0
Capacity development and education	3.0	3.0	3.1	2.9	3.3	2.9
Administration	3.4	3.6	3.5	3.3	3.6	3.5
Research and monitoring	3.2	3.3	3.3	3.0	3.4	3.2
Awareness raising and public information/communication	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.4	3.4	3.3
Marketing and promotion	2.4	2.8	3.0	2.9	3.1	2.7
Interpretation	2.7	3.2	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.0
Visitor management/tourism	2.8	3.3	3.1	3.3	3.4	3.2
Enforcement (custodians, police)	3.2	3.3	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.2

(1 = Not available; 2 = Poor; 3 = Fair; 4 = Good)

Management of the World Heritage properties appears to be based on sound planning, with 224 (85%) of properties reporting that they are guided by a statutory Management Plan or zoning plan for the property. Other forms of statutory or non-statutory plans are in place at 107 properties (40%), and 99 (38%) have traditional ways of management recognized by local communities and other specific groups.

3.12 Summary conclusions

The results of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting appear to paint a fairly satisfactory picture of the status of the World Heritage processes in the region, with improving trends in most areas of management compared with the results of the Second Cycle exercise of 2012. However, there is still a room for improvement and some aspects may paint a more positive picture than the reality on the ground, where ascertained or potential danger to World Heritage properties, such as those arising from climate change and conflicts, could have been better captured.

For the Pacific, support to respond to future impacts from climate change was the key feedback from properties in the subregion, in particular resourcing for adaptation measures and capacity development. Existing budgets and management capabilities are not seen as effective for future threats that will be exacerbated by climate change, such as wildfires, extreme rainfall, marine heatwaves and sea-level rise. Authenticity, integrity and OUV have largely been preserved across properties. While some degradation has occurred in some natural values in the subregion, most reported that the overall state of conservation of the property had not been unduly impacted. The importance of an integrated approach to the conservation of natural and cultural values (including that of Indigenous peoples) was also identified.

There is little advance in the establishment of transboundary or transnational properties, despite many opportunities where such establishments would appear to be an attractive option, including for peace-building and for strengthening connectivity beyond national borders and across the regions.

The promotion of secondary agenda for gender equality and greater involvement of local communities in management still need a lot of encouragement in several countries.

Stronger cooperation between different agencies involved in the management of World Heritage properties would require additional efforts.

Usage of various training materials, strategies and guidelines developed and provided by UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies remains fairly low, and one probable reason is their limited availability in local languages. States Parties are encouraged to translate key documents into the official language of the country and seek financial assistance where necessary.

In view of increasing numbers of multiple designations, synergies in reporting among different conventions and programmes should be also explored in order to reduce the reporting burden.

The questionnaire results show that the bulk of funds being used on World Heritage affairs is used at national level, with much smaller amounts being made available to local government or at site level. Still less reaches local communities.

If properties are to be protected and well-managed, sufficient budgets should be allocated to site-level activities and where local communities feel obvious benefits from the World Heritage status.

Where World Heritage status attracts large numbers of visitors and creates new revenue and employment opportunities, it is often an outside agency that moves in to capitalize on the new opportunity and local communities benefit from only a few job opportunities. States Parties should be encouraged to ensure that greater preference is given to local communities, local enterprise and household-based tourism developments, so that benefits stay close to home and result in much greater levels of local appreciation and pride in World Heritage status.

The case of Fraser Island World Heritage property in Australia shows how monitoring data can serve as a warning of hazards to come, and how this should guide management responses. The reporting for Fraser Island indicates sufficient funding and positive trends in terms of management and social and cultural aspects. At the same time, the reporting shows that all negative aspects of climate change, including temperature rise, frequency of storms, winds, floods and droughts, combined with increases in alien species, are rising.

Although the concern about climate change is mentioned in quite a number of questionnaire responses, the full impacts of predicted temperature rise, sea-level rise, storm frequency and intensity, increased frequency of floods and droughts are not fully reflected in reports. Climate changes are affecting vegetation, migration patterns, seasonality and species distributions in natural ecosystems, melting glaciers and having severe physical impacts on cultural heritage properties, World Heritage infrastructure and local communities. The dangers of climate change to World Heritage properties should be better addressed and offer guidance on how to increase resilience and climate-proofing for World Heritage properties and their OUV.

While the questionnaire does not clearly request feedback on wildlife diseases and zoonoses, the impacts on the COVID-19 pandemic are highlighted by a number of properties.

3.13 Impacts of World Heritage status

Among the factors reported as affecting World Heritage properties, several are directly related to World Heritage status. The most important impact for both cultural and natural properties is the almost universally positive impact of management and institutional factors. Buildings and development, together with transport infrastructure and service infrastructures are also rated as mostly positive but do also include quite a lot of negative impacts. Pollution is listed as having mostly negative impacts. Some of that pollution can be attributed to increased visitor pressure (litter, noise and toilets). The impacts of noise are probably underestimated for natural properties. Wildlife tends to avoid areas with high numbers of visitors, negatively impacting site integrity.

World Heritage status appears to make a significant contribution towards other World Heritage socio-economic objectives, with little variation across types and subregions. But there is still room for improvement on these issues, including clear identification and better communication of benefits and expectations of World Heritage, particularly to local communities.

Table 3.19. *Q II.5.3.17: Please rate the extent to which the management system of your property contributes towards achieving the objectives of the World Heritage Committee's Policy for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention*

Region/Subregion	**The management system of the property contributes to gender equality**	**The management system of the property provides ecosystem services/benefits to the local community (e.g. fresh air, water, food, medicinal plants)**	**The management system of the property contributes to social inclusion and equity, improving opportunities for all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other**	**The management system of the property integrates a human rights-based approach**	**The management system of the property contributes to fostering inclusive local economic development, and to enhancing livelihood**	**The management system of the property contributes to conflict prevention, including respect for cultural diversity within and around the World Heritage property**
Asia and the Pacific	3.8	3.9	4.0	3.9	4.0	4.0
Central Asia	3.7	3.9	4.1	4.1	3.8	4.0
North-East Asia	4.1	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.0	4.1
Pacific	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.8	4.0	3.7
South Asia	3.4	3.6	3.9	4.0	3.8	3.9
South-East Asia	3.9	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.3	4.0

(2 = No contribution; 3 = Limited; 4 = Significant; 5 = Full achievement)

Table 3.20. *Q II.13.1: Please rate the impacts of World Heritage status of the property in relation to the following areas:*

Region/subregion	Central Asia	North-East Asia	Pacific	South Asia	South-East Asia	Total
Conservation	3.4	3.7	3.4	3.7	3.4	3.6
Research and monitoring	3.1	3.6	3.5	3.3	3.2	3.4
Management effectiveness	3.1	3.6	3.1	3.3	3.3	3.4
Quality of life for local communities and Indigenous peoples	2.7	3.1	2.9	2.9	3.0	2.9
Recognition	3.4	3.5	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.4
Education	3.0	3.4	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.1
Infrastructure development	2.7	2.9	2.8	3.0	3.0	2.9
Funding for the property	3.1	3.1	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.0
International cooperation	3.3	3.1	2.9	3.0	3.3	3.1
Political support for conservation	3.3	3.5	3.1	2.8	3.1	3.3
Legal/Policy framework	3.1	3.4	2.8	3.4	3.3	3.2
Advocacy	3.1	2.9	3.1	3.0	3.1	2.9
Institutional coordination	3.1	3.3	2.9	3.1	3.0	3.1
Security	3.0	3.3	2.5	3.1	3.1	3.1
Gender equality	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8

Provision of ecosystem services/benefits to local communities	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.9	3.0	2.8
Social inclusion and equity, and improvement of opportunities for all	3.1	2.8	2.9	3.0	2.9	2.8
Fostering inclusive local economic development and enhancing livelihood	2.8	3.1	3.1	2.9	3.3	3.0
Contributing to conflict prevention, including respect for cultural diversity within and around heritage properties	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.7	2.9	2.9
Other	2.6	2.1	2.6	2.7	1.8	2.4

(1 = Negative; 2 = No impact; 3 = Positive; 4 = Very positive)

Table 3.21 lists the areas in which properties rate positive benefits, and identifies the top four across the region. For the Pacific, the view from almost all properties in the subregion is that World Heritage status generated a positive to very positive impact. Related impacts of World Heritage status, while not necessarily positive or negative, but rather requiring suitable systems, included the issue of being able to successfully juggle joint agency and partner cooperation.

Table 3.21. *Q I.4.3: Please rate the perceived benefits in your country of inscribing properties on the World Heritage List*

Region/subregion	**Central Asia**	**North-East Asia**	**Pacific**	**South Asia**	**South-East Asia**	**Total**
Promoted environmental sustainability, valuing places which are essential for human well-being	3.7	4.0	3.5	3.6	3.9	3.7
Enhanced inclusive social development, with full inclusion and equity for all stakeholders	3.0	3.6	3.0	3.3	3.3	3.2
Strengthened protection and conservation of heritage (legislative, regulatory, institutional and/or traditional)	4.0	4.0	3.4	3.9	4.0	3.8
Enhanced conservation practices	3.7	4.0	3.2	3.9	3.8	3.7
Enhanced wider community appreciation and participation in heritage processes	3.0	4.0	3.5	3.1	3.7	3.5
Improved presentation of sites	3.3	4.0	3.4	3.7	3.6	3.6
Enhanced honour/prestige	3.7	4.0	3.5	3.9	3.9	3.8
Increased funding	3.2	3.6	2.8	3.0	3.3	3.2
Additional tool for lobbying/political influence	3.2	2.8	3.4	3.1	3.1	3.1
Fostered peace and security, including promotion of partnerships and conservation	3.2	3.5	3.4	3.1	3.4	3.3
Increased number of tourists and visitors	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.6
Promoted inclusive economic development, including decent income and employment for communities	2.7	3.6	2.9	3.1	3.3	3.1
Other(s)	3.5	1.0	4.0	n/a	2.0	2.6

3.14 Good practice in the implementation of the Convention at property level

The Third Cycle questionnaire gave site managers the opportunity to provide examples of good practices in World Heritage protection, identification, conservation and preservation, implemented at the property level. Some examples are shared in this section.

Over 250 examples of best practice at the property level were provided by respondents. Approximately 50% of the examples included an impressive amount of detail, some linking to other sources of information. The collected set of examples is an indication of what could become a rich and diverse set of case studies to be further developed, and from which many lessons learned could be shared.

The examples were more or less evenly distributed among the six categories provided (see Figure 3.34). At the subregional level, only minor variations in the distribution of examples among the categories was observed. Overall, synergies tended to be the least frequent category and state of conservation and management tended to be the highest.

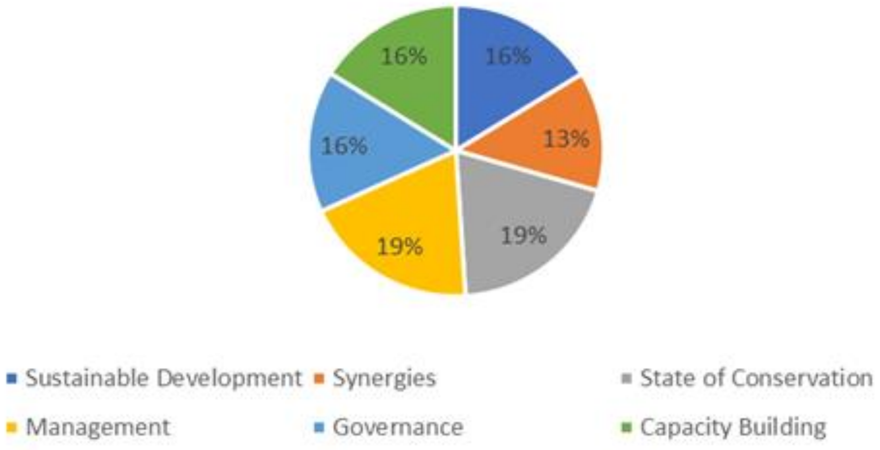


Figure 3.24. *Topics covered by good practice examples for Section II (property level)*

3.15 Assessment of the Third Cycle Periodic Reporting exercise

The Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise appears to have contributed to enhancing site managers' overall knowledge of the World Heritage Convention. Respondents also reported an improved understanding of the concepts of OUV, integrity and authenticity, in addition to the importance of monitoring and reporting as well as effective management to maintain the OUV.

Table 3.22. *Subregions answering 'yes' to Q II.15.1.1: Has the Periodic Reporting process improved understanding of the following?*

Region/Subregion	Central Asia	North-East Asia	Pacific	South Asia	South-East Asia	Total
The World Heritage Convention	38	92	14	50	32	226
The concept of Outstanding Universal Value	33	89	19	55	35	231
The property's Outstanding Universal Value	34	93	18	56	37	238
The concept of integrity and/or authenticity	33	88	17	52	37	227
The property's integrity and/or authenticity	32	91	13	52	38	226
Management effectiveness to maintain the Outstanding Universal Value	37	93	23	55	36	244
Monitoring and reporting	37	96	22	55	38	248

Regarding the follow-up to conclusions and recommendations from the previous Periodic Reporting exercise by the States Parties, site managers, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, responses ranged from ‘poor’ to ‘fair’, highlighting the wide scope of this exercise and the associated difficulties in implementing conclusions and recommendations in such a long time span. However, it also reflects the endeavours from all these four entities and their consideration of the importance of this exercise (See section 15.1, Annex II). This issue can, however, be addressed through mid-cycle reviews and closer monitoring.

Site managers reported that the data generated from Periodic Reporting will be used mainly for the revision of priorities/strategies/policies for the protection, management and conservation of heritage, the update of management plans and for raising awareness (See question 15.2, Annex II). As also highlighted in Section I, the least identified use is for fundraising and advocating. From the comments section, most respondents noted the importance of the data in improving their understanding and knowledge of the management mechanisms for their property and for clarifying priorities, as well as for reference and guidance for future work. The data also provided insight into specific management needs.

The entities that participated most in the exercise were i) site managers, ii) governmental institutions responsible for cultural and natural heritage, and iii) local communities and external experts. This highlights the active commitment of the States Parties at national and local levels. The participation of Indigenous peoples was highlighted by 37 respondents, and the participation of the UNESCO National Commission was highlighted by 67 respondents. Furthermore, 56% of the States Parties explicitly considered gender balance and effectively implemented it in the process (See section 15.3, Annex II).

Three-quarters of respondents considered that they received adequate time to gather necessary information and to fill in this questionnaire. Furthermore, for 171 properties, additional human resources for the completion of the questionnaires were needed, while 97 properties needed additional financial resources for the organization and consultation of meetings and trainings (See section 15.3, Annex II).

Regarding accessibility of the required information, the majority of site managers (58%) reported that most required information was accessible, 29% reported that all required information was accessible, while 42% reported that little or not all required information was accessible.

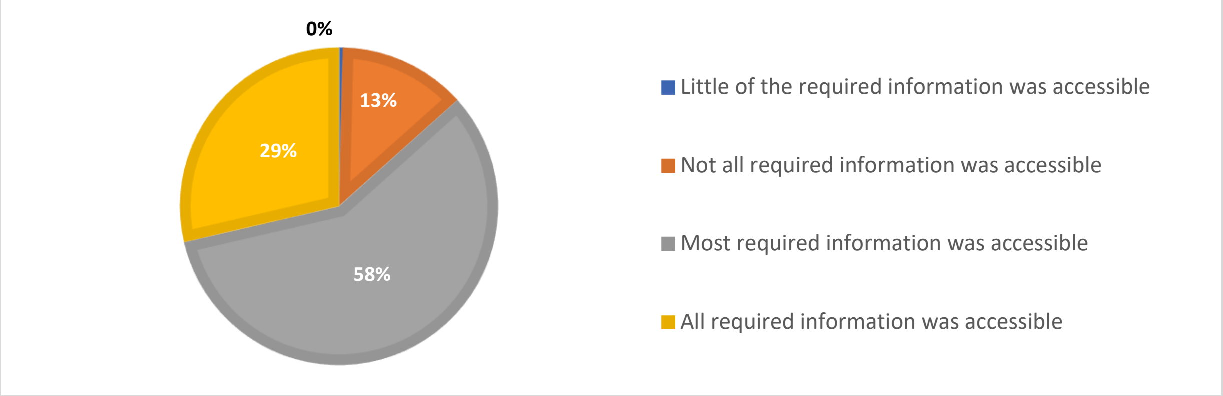


***Figure 3.25**. Q II.15.4.1: How accessible was the information required to complete this questionnaire?*

The questionnaire itself was considered relatively easy to use and clear to understand for the majority of States Parties (See section 15.4, Annex II). Respondents offered suggestions to improve the questionnaires, including the need for additional and more detailed descriptions and a glossary to help them with their responses. Some respondents also indicated that the questions were too long, could be simplified and less repetitive. It was also suggested to improve communication and cooperation between the World Heritage Centre, national Focal Points and site managers.

In terms of training and guidance, respondents rated the support from UNESCO (including the World Heritage Centre and other sectors/field offices) and the UNESCO National Commissions as ranging from 'fair' to 'good'. Site managers also indicated that other involved entities, namely the Advisory Bodies (international and national), provided relatively fair support.

Moreover, 68% of respondents considered that the online training resources provided by the World Heritage Centre were adequate for the completion of the questionnaire, while 14% responded negatively and 18% did not use the resources (See section 15.5, Annex II). These results reflect the usefulness of the 16 online workshops and other resource material that were provided by the World Heritage Centre during the exercise, despite the challenges that were encountered partly due to the online format of the trainings as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to the time differences between all stakeholders. To improve the online training resources, respondents offered suggestions such as translating the training content into national languages, conducting training at a more local level, increasing the number of offline trainings, allowing more time and a better platform to enable sharing and learning exchanges, indicating links to online training resources at visible places of the questionnaire, and making documents guiding the implementation of Periodic Reports more specific for each heritage site and its criteria.

In terms of support provided to complete the Periodic Reporting questionnaire, site managers rated the involvement of the World Heritage Centre and the national Focal Points between 'fair' to 'good', highlighting the strong commitment of both entities but also the possibility for improvement (See question 15.5.2, Annex II).

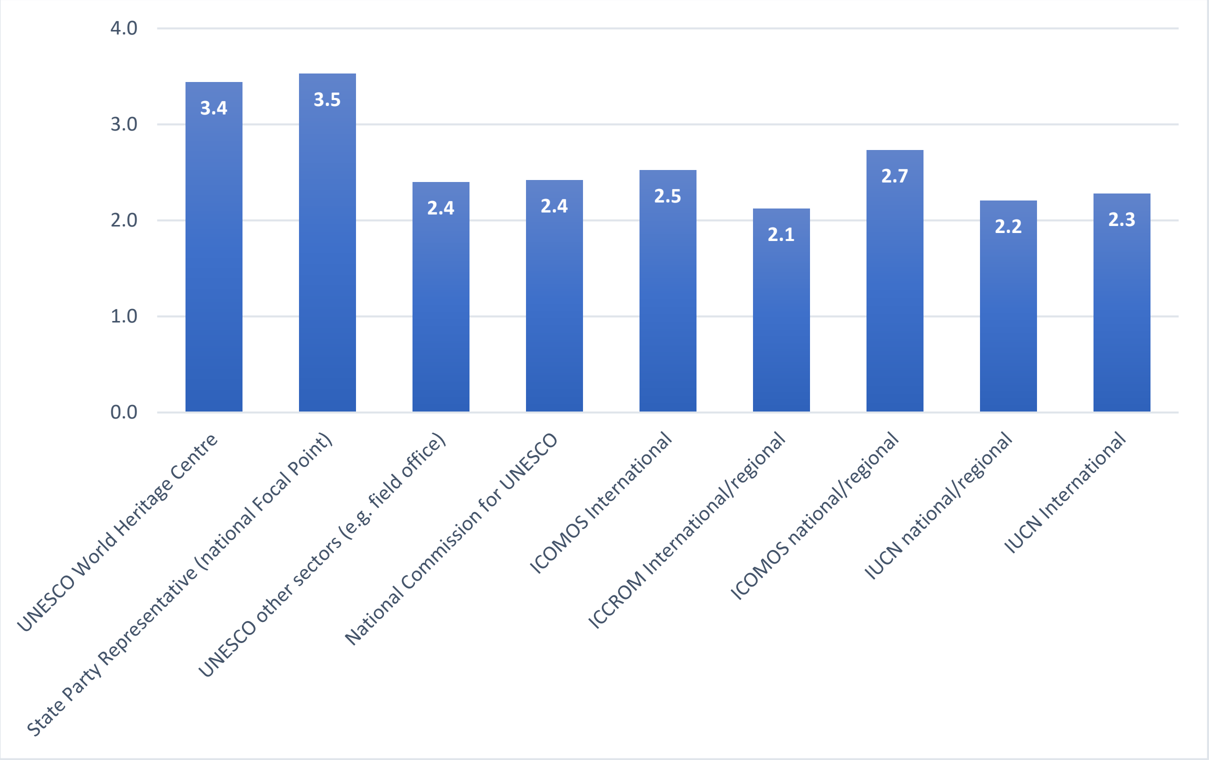


***Figure 3.26**. Q II 15.5.2: Please rate the level of support for completing the Periodic Reporting questionnaire from the following entities (1 = No support, 2 = Poor, 3 = Fair, 4 = Good).*

Overall, site managers commented positively on the exercise and judged it useful and informative. They also commented on its benefits for the strengthening of bilateral ties, increasing communication between all involved stakeholders, including local communities, and for updating data on the properties and improving the understanding of the property's OUV. The exercise also better informed the site managers on the development, trends and issues happening on their World Heritage properties. It was also suggested that good practices around the world could be summarized and classified into difference categories, and that more human, material and financial resources were needed for the properties. Many respondents emphasized that questions assume answers for a property with one site, limiting the accuracy of responses for serial properties.

3.16 Conclusions on Section II

Overall, the Third Cycle questionnaire provides a positive response to management issues in several sections of the Analysis Report. In section 3.4 and 3.5, data provided by respondents reveal an overwhelmingly positive application of management practices, tools, coordination mechanisms and progressively better involvement of different groups and stakeholders. Management is a cross-cutting factor. The adequacy of boundaries and buffer zones should be highlighted as a notable achievement and notable progress has been made compared to the situation at the time of the Second cycle of Periodic Reporting. Overall, the North-East Asia subregion tended to show stronger management capacity.

Regarding instruments, tools and policy documents, probably because most are aimed at national level, there is a need for more awareness raising and training, as on-site activities do indeed show projects that are in line with the approaches advocated by these instruments.

The data analysis in several section of this report, as also shown in Section 3.4 and 3.5, suggests avenues for practical research. Further research into the types of positive and negative impacts, in particular temporal and spatial scales, types of heritage, cities, cultural landscapes, forests, marine and coastal, religious and sacred, monuments, archaeology or other heritage typologies relevant to the region and subregions, should be considered to better understand specific challenges and needs, and to strengthen management, conservation and impact assessments practices.

These would help identify gaps, challenges and needs, which would benefit safeguarding, conservation and management practices, as well as the development of targeted management tools and interventions. It would benefit capacity-building priorities, in particular for properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

With regard to tools for managing properties but also preparing nominations, translating current and future training and guidance documents produced by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, such as the Impact Assessment guidance, into national languages should be considered, not only for the benefit of management agencies but also for all other relevant stakeholders.

Also, all the topics that revealed positive outcomes in management should be showcased and publicized at national, regional and international levels. Overall, site managers considered the exercise very useful, especially in improving their knowledge of the World Heritage Convention, identifying conservation and management strengths and needs at World Heritage properties and in providing an opportunity to strengthen bilateral ties between different stakeholders. Site managers, however, suggested that more training from the World Heritage Centre and a more user-friendly platform could be helpful.

4 MONITORING INDICATORS FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION

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.

These indicators aim to reinforce the results reporting framework (Decision **41 COM 10A**). The use of the same indicators for all world regions will feed into the proposed Global World Heritage Report at the end of the Third Cycle, inform the future implementation of the World Heritage Convention and provide a baseline to measure progress and improvements in the implementation of the Convention.

The 42 indicators are directly linked to the objectives of Periodic Reporting and are grouped into the 6 thematic areas of the reports: (i) State of conservation of World Heritage properties; (ii) Management; (iii) Governance; (iv) Synergies; (v) Sustainable development; and (vi) Capacity development. The thematic areas in turn correspond with the specific objectives of Periodic Reporting (Table 3.23):

1. To provide an assessment of the application of the World Heritage Convention by the State Party
2. To provide an assessment as to whether the World Heritage values of the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List are being maintained over time
3. To provide updated information about the World Heritage properties to record the changing circumstances and state of conservation of the properties
4. To provide a mechanism for regional co-operation and exchange of information and experiences between States Parties concerning the implementation of the Convention and World Heritage conservation

***Table 4.1**. World Heritage Monitoring Indicators linked to Periodic Reporting objectives*

Thematic areas		Description of indicators	N° of indicators	Periodic Reporting objectives
I	State of conservation of World Heritage properties	Indicators to assess temporal patterns in the status and trends of the OUV and factors affecting the property; integrity and authenticity of the World Heritage properties.	5	2 and 3
II	Management	Indicators to measure the effectiveness of site management, and adequacy of financial and human resources and budget. The effectiveness of site management is measured through the existence of management plans or management systems and the extent of their implementation. There are questions about communication with other stakeholders, and the positive and negative impacts of management and institutional factors.	7	1, 2, 3 and 4
III	Governance	Indicators to measure the adequacy of the legal framework for heritage protection, nature and level of involvement of key stakeholders, including the transparency of the processes involved, and the adequacy of action plans to promote heritage.	4	1, 2, 3 and 4
IV	Synergies	Indicators to measure the existence of synergies with other cultural and biodiversity-related conventions and normative instruments	5	1 and 4

		and wish to ensure appropriate coordination and information-sharing between all these various instruments. This is a new theme for Periodic Reporting and the Third Cycle will establish the baseline for measuring the extent of these synergies in the future.		
V	Sustainable development	Indicators to measure whether the application of the Convention is contributing to environmental sustainability, inclusive social development and inclusive economic development, as well as the fostering of peace and security. This cycle will set the baseline to measure the extent of States Parties' implementation of the 2015 World Heritage Policy for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention	13	1, 2 and 3
VI	Capacity development	Indicators to measure the existence, effectiveness of and participation in capacity-building strategies and programmes	8	1 and 4

4.1 Methodology

There are many different forms of Monitoring Indicator. The results are presented in tabular form appropriate to each question, and with brief narrative commentary. As far as possible, the narrative in this summary has been consolidated into a conclusion for each thematic area. Many questions require a simple 'yes' or 'no' response but many of them offer a range of options, from which the national Focal Point (for Section I) and the site manager (for Section II) choose the most appropriate.

Several questions require separate replies for many aspects of each World Heritage property. In these cases, it has been judged necessary to only record properties as fulfilling an Indicator when they have reached the required standard in every aspect. In future Periodic Reporting cycles, each Indicator will be compared to its baseline in the current Third Cycle. Further detail will be available from the quantitative annexes attached to each report.

Each Indicator is presented in tabular form, after its written description. Results presented in the form x/y indicate that x States Parties/properties out of y reporting have met the required level. When an Indicator has been used in both the Second and Third Cycles, the percentage change between the two cycles is normally noted. The percentage of States Parties/properties meeting each Indicator is calculated according to the number of States Parties/properties reporting in each cycle (e.g. 15 States Parties and 59 properties in 2010, and 19 States Parties and 82 properties in 2019). The percentage difference is that between the respective percentages of States Parties/properties meeting the Indicator in the Second and Third Cycles.

4.2 Results

The results of the Monitoring Indicators in the framework of Third Cycle for Asia and the Pacific region is available at: https://whc.unesco.org/document/194411.

General significant comments on Indicators relating to specific questions have been included in Sections 2 and 3 of this report.

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

5 CONCLUSION

The report paints a satisfactory picture of the status of the World Heritage processes in the region, with improving trends in most areas of management compared with the results of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in 2012. However, there is still much room for improvement, and the self-reporting nature of the exercise may also skew the results compared to the actual situation in the field.

Transboundary cooperation has increased but remains proportionally low across the region and could become an important area of progress in future years. This would also echo UNESCO's mission regarding international cooperation, peace building, and the promotion of the highest international standards for conservation and presentation of heritage.

Gender equality and the greater **involvement of local communities and Indigenous peoples** in the management of World Heritage must still be significantly encouraged across the region, in keeping with the principles of UNESCO and the current global societal evolutions.

Substantial and regular **cooperation between different agencies** involved in the management of World Heritage properties appears to remain difficult to achieve and could be an important focus area for the coming years.

The use of various **training materials**, strategies and guidelines developed and provided by UNESCO and/or the Advisory Bodies, e.g. on nominations, risk management, capacity building, climate change, etc. remains fairly low. National authorities may wish to consider creating versions of these guidance materials in their national languages, for which various forms of assistance may be requested, if needed.

A substantial amount of **funding for World Heritage** is used at the national level, with only much smaller amounts filtering down to local governments and/or the site level, let alone local communities. The reinforcement of benefit sharing and the need for sustainable funding sources for heritage at all levels is an important issue, which was also raised by the World Heritage Committee in several cases in the region. To protect and manage properties adequately, the bulk of expenditure should be for site-level activities. Unless local communities feel the direct or indirect benefits from the World Heritage status, enthusiasm or cooperative support for the properties will remain lower, even though these populations should play a key role as custodians of their important heritage.

Climate change was identified as a negative factor in a number of questionnaires for all types of properties, and its full impacts (e.g. predicted temperature rise, sea-level rise, storm frequency and intensity, increased frequency of floods and droughts) are increasingly reflected in the monitoring mechanisms of the World Heritage Convention. Climate change affects vegetation, migration patterns, seasonality and species distributions in natural ecosystems, melting of glaciers, and has severe physical impacts on cultural heritage properties, World Heritage infrastructure and local communities. UNESCO is providing guidance on this matter, following an extensive international reflection with World Heritage stakeholders, through the update of the Policy Document on the impacts of climate change on World Heritage properties. This important document could also be translated into national languages as soon as it is adopted (foreseeably in 2022).

Overall, the Third Cycle questionnaire provides a positive response to **management issues** in several section of the Analysis Report. Data provided by respondents reveal a largely positive application of management practices, tools, coordination mechanisms and progressively better involvement of different groups and stakeholders. For this cross-cutting factor, however, many management aspects not covered in the dedicated sections of the questionnaire highlight some key issues that still need to be addressed, especially regarding de facto implementation of management strategies.

The data analysis of several sections of the questionnaire suggests **avenues for practical research**. A better understanding of **different types of positive and negative impacts**, in particular temporal and spatial scales, types of heritage (e.g. cities, cultural landscapes, forests, marine and coastal heritage, religious and sacred heritage, monuments, archaeological heritage and other heritage typologies) that relate to the (sub)region should be considered to better understand specific challenges. This also impacts management and capacity-building needs and can help strengthen management, conservation and impact assessments practices.

The following key areas for improvement have been identified:

At the national level

The two top issues identified as priority areas for improvement at the national level are:

- capacity building
- international cooperation

In addition, the **adequacy of budgets is identified as an important area for improvement.**

At the World Heritage property level

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

- capacity building (especially for marketing and promotion, risk preparedness, environmental sustainability, community participation)
- legal and management frameworks (including boundaries and buffer zones, tourism management)

Also a**t the property level, the adequacy of budgets is identified as an important area for improvement.**

PART II – FRAMEWORK ACTION PLAN AND DRAFT DECISION

6 FRAMEWORK ACTION PLAN FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

6.1 Approach and elaboration

The first draft of the Action Plan for Asia and the Pacific has been developed on the basis of the outcomes of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reports submitted by the Asia and the Pacific region States Parties through the Periodic Reporting online questionnaires. It takes into close account the contributions gathered from a series of consultations made with different stakeholders, including the national Focal Points, World Heritage site managers, the Advisory Bodies and heritage experts from the region. Furthermore, the draft has been inspired by the recommendations and decisions of the World Heritage Committee with regard to Asia and the Pacific.

In March 2022, a three-day 'Final Online Regional Consultation Meeting in the Framework of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Asia and Pacific Region' was organized with national Focal Points, with plenary sessions open for discussions on the results and recommendations by experts, and break-out group sessions to discuss the different aspects of the results and to draft specific action points/activities. The resulting Action Plan was then consolidated by the Periodic Reporting experts and World Heritage Centre, who harmonized the actions before submitting the Plan to national Focal Points for additional adjustments, comments and recommendations.

Based on the comments received, the World Heritage Centre further streamlined the Action Plan to avoid any duplication and achieve a concise set of actions that could be monitored in the future.

6.2 Implementation strategy and appropriation of the Framework Action Plan by States Parties

The Third Periodic Reporting Action Plan for the Asia and the Pacific region is foreseen as a framework into which national development priorities are integrated to ensure relevance and to improve attractiveness and capacity, in order to raise resources for implementation. The Action Plan aims to adapt the principle of the Policy for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention in order to achieve the appropriate balance between the protection of the OUV of World Heritage properties and meeting the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

The proposed Regional Action Plan is intended as a framework for all States Parties in the region. national Focal Points are invited, along with their relevant national authorities, to appropriate the Action Plan and decide which of the 35 activities/actions are relevant to them, and what level of priority can be given to each. The objectives of the Plan would only be achieved through the partnership of global, regional and local partners, actors and stakeholders. Such an approach, focused on both local communities and global stakeholders, is enshrined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As such, the involvement of youth and women, with a strong emphasis on intergenerational exchange, is a continuous theme of this Action Plan.

In compiling the Action Plan, national Focal Points were aware that some activities related to the management plan, governance, funding, institutionalization, youth and capacity building should appear in every strategy. However, there was a consensus to put specific actions to deal with these matters, keeping in mind that these activities are cross-cutting for the whole plan.

Furthermore, the national Focal Points are invited to share the Action Plan with the site managers of World Heritage properties, who may be interested in incorporating some of the actions into their management strategies. This process should also encourage site managers to take into account the results of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting for their respective properties; a short summary report on these results can be found on the website of the World Heritage Centre (on each property's page, in the 'Documents' section). Site managers are invited to use this information in their efforts to ensure the safeguarding of their property's OUV.

During the first step in the implementation of the Action Plan, the framework Action Plan will be made available to download on the World Heritage Centre's website (https://whc.unesco.org/en/Asia and the Pacific//). The Asia and the Pacific region Action Plan will be widely disseminated after its presentation and approval by the World Heritage Committee in 2022. This will involve the following actions:

- The Secretariat, the C2Cs and Asia and the Pacific States Parties will ensure the dissemination of the endorsed Regional Report and the adopted Action Plan, as well as the related World Heritage Committee's Decision, to stakeholders at national and regional levels.
- The Secretariat will publish the results of the Third Periodic Report in the Asia and the Pacific region in the World Heritage Paper Series, if the financial situation permits. States Parties are welcome to contribute financially for this purpose.
- The Monitoring Indicators produced for the region will serve as a basis for the preparation of an eventual first World Heritage Global Report as foreseen at the end of the reporting period from all regions.
- The States Parties, Advisory Bodies, the C2Cs and UNESCO will be the main actors in the monitoring of the implementation of the Framework Regional Action Plan and present a mid-cycle assessment report to the World Heritage Committee.

6.3 Monitoring process

In order to monitor the progress accomplished with 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. For each action, national Focal Points will be able to indicate whether it has become part of their national Action Plan; should this be the case, a simple, quantifiable follow-up question will be asked in order to track the region's progress with the implementation of the Action Plan over time. This process would avoid having to carry out a large-scale monitoring exercise.

At the suggestion of some of the national Focal Points, the World Heritage Centre recommends, due to the State-Party-driven process, that States Parties follow-up on the implementation of the Action Plan with site managers at the national level, as well as meeting with other States Parties at the subregional level, in order to maintain the synergies developed throughout the Periodic Reporting exercise. Those meetings would be a good occasion for the Focal Points to exchange their experiences, but also to reflect on their progress with the implementation of the subregional priorities for the period in between the cycles of Periodic Reporting.

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, September 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.

6.4 Draft Regional Framework Action Plan for Asia and the Pacific (2022-2030)

(See the following pages. For a more easily legible version of this Draft Regional Framework Action Plan, see: https://whc.unesco.org/en/asia-pacific/)

Expected Results (ER)	Actions/Activities	Approach	Key Actors/Partners	Strategic Objective(s)					Performance Indicator(s)
				1 - Credibility	2 - Conservation	3 - Capacity Building	4 - Communication	5 - Communities	
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: STRENGTHEN THE REPRESENTATIVITY AND CREDIBILITY OF THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION									
ER 1.1 ***National inventories are updated to reflect the diversity of heritage, in line with thematic studies and gap analyses***	**1.** Update/develop national-level heritage inventories informed by the results of thematic studies and gap analyses	By organising capacity-building activities for heritage inventories By coordinating targeted activities based on identified gaps By disseminating the results of existing gap analyses and studies By ensuring sustainable financing for heritage identification	States Parties Advisory Bodies (ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN) (ABs) Category 2 Centres (C2Cs)1 UNESCO World Heritage Centre (WHC) UNESCO Field Offices	▲		▲	▲		By 2028, at least 80% of States Parties have updated/developed national inventories based on existing thematic studies *Baseline: 27 States Parties (61%) (Q I.6.1)*
	2. Conduct thematic studies and gap analyses to be considered in the identification of cultural and natural heritage for national inventories	By ensuring that future nomination projects can contribute to a diverse portfolio of sites with rich cultural and biological diversity, including Wetland/Ramsar sites, UNESCO-designated sites and elements (Biosphere Reserves, Global Geoparks, intangible cultural heritage, etc.) By working with ABs, the Secretariats of the relevant Programmes and Conventions, training institutions and research centres By ensuring sustainable financing for gap analyses and thematic studies	States Parties Advisory Bodies C2Cs UNESCO Field Offices	▲					By 2030, at least 2 gap analyses are conducted in the region *Baseline: 0** By 2030, based on the gap analyses, at least 2 thematic studies are prepared and disseminated, covering cultural and natural heritage values *Baseline: 0*
ER 1.2	**3.** Review existing Tentative Lists (or develop one), including	By basing the Tentative List on the assessment of potential OUV, in line	States Parties Advisory Bodies	▲		▲			By 2030, at least 40 States Parties have updated their Tentative List *Baseline: 19 States Parties have updated*

Expected Results (ER)	Actions/Activities	Approach	Key Actors/Partners	Strategic Objective(s)					Performance Indicator(s)
				1 - Credibility	2 - Conservation	3 - Capacity Building	4 - Communication	5 - Communities	
Tentative Lists are updated or developed in accordance with the Operational Guidelines and the Guidance on Developing and Revising World Heritage Tentative Lists	harmonisation for transboundary and transnational projects	with the gap analyses and thematic studies By ensuring regular communication between the States Parties, the Advisory Bodies and UNESCO By organising national and regional field workshops	C2Cs Training institutions/research centres/universities UNESCO (WHC and Field Offices)						*their Tentative List since 39 COM. 6 States Parties currently do not have a Tentative List.*
ER 1.3 ***High-quality nomination dossiers are prepared and support the credibility, representativity and diversity of the UNESCO World Heritage List***	**4.** Encourage States Parties to request Upstream support and/or other forms of preparatory assistance	By increasing the awareness of States Parties regarding support opportunities available to them (public funding, international assistance, partnerships, etc.)	C2Cs States Parties Advisory Bodies Training institutions/ research centres/ universities UNESCO (WHC and Field Offices)	▲		▲			By 2031, at least 10 States Parties have requested and taken into consideration upstream recommendations *Baseline: 0*

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[1] Category 2 Centres for World Heritage, located in the region of Asia and the Pacific: World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITR-AP) (China); Wildlife Institute of India -Category 2 Centre on World Natural Heritage Management and Training for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WII) (India); International Centre for the Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites (WHIPIC) (Republic of Korea); Regional Centre for Human Evolution, Adaptations and Dispersals in South East Asia (CHADSEA) (Indonesia).

Also of relevance: International Centre on Space Technologies for Natural and Cultural Heritage (HIST) (China); Global Research and Training Centre for Internationally Designated Areas (GCIDA) (Republic of Korea).

Expected Results (ER)	Actions/Activities	Approach	Key Actors/Partners	Strategic Objective(s)					Performance Indicator(s)
				1 - Credibility	2 - Conservation	3 - Capacity Building	4 - Communication	5 - Communities	
	5. Support the development of credible nomination dossiers for each State Party with no properties on the World Heritage List	By working with States Parties, ABs, regional training institutions, research centres and universities	States Parties C2Cs Training institutions/research centres/ universities Advisory Bodies UNESCO (WHC and Field Offices)	▲					By 2030, at least 4 of the States Parties that have no property on the World Heritage List have developed a nomination dossier *Baseline: 8 States Parties*
	6. Revise and/or put forward nominations dossiers that improve the representativity and credibility of the World Heritage List in the Pacific region	By strengthening mentorship for the consolidation of existing nominations (in addition to ongoing capacity building) By revising nomination dossiers in line with the Advisory Bodies' evaluations and the Committee's recommendations By reinforcing work on serial transnational/transboundary properties (e.g. for migratory species reserves, peace parks, Silk Roads heritage)	States Parties C2Cs Training institutions/ research centres/ universities Advisory Bodies UNESCO (WHC and Field Offices)	▲		▲	▲		By 2030, at least 10 nomination dossiers are revised in line with the Advisory Bodies' evaluations and the Committee's recommendations *Baseline: 0* By 2030, at least two nomination dossiers are developed for transboundary or transnational sites *Baseline: 0*
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: IMPROVE CONSERVATION, EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT AND PROMOTION OF WORLD HERITAGE									
ER 2.1 ***Adequate and sustainable funding and support frameworks are in place to meet the***	**7.** Develop and/or reinforce innovative and sustainable funding mechanisms dedicated to heritage conservation and management	By introducing or securing sustainable government budgets dedicated to World Heritage, including at the site level (see also ER 2.6) By mainstreaming heritage into other funding sources, incl. international	States Parties Global/Regional development banks and institutions	▲	▲	▲			By 2030, at least 75% of States Parties have a dedicated budget for World Heritage and consider it adequate for the effective management of the property *Baseline: 35% (Q I.6.1.3)*

Expected Results (ER)	Actions/Activities	Approach	Key Actors/Partners	Strategic Objective(s)					Performance Indicator(s)
				1 - Credibility	2 - Conservation	3 - Capacity Building	4 - Communication	5 - Communities	
needs of World Heritage at all levels		programmes (e.g. for climate change, biodiversity, infrastructure, agriculture, sustainable tourism) By introducing competency-based funding, taking into account the most significant human and financial resource needs, e.g. via the Competency Framework for Cultural Heritage Management (developed by the UNESCO Office in Bangkok) or by expanding existing competency standards analysis methods (e.g. ASEAN methodology)	UNESCO Field Offices						By 2030, at least 25% of properties are benefiting from non-heritage-specific funding (e.g. from projects/activities in related fields) *Baseline: TBD*** By 2030, at least 5 good practice examples of competency-based funding for World Heritage properties are shared for publication on the UNESCO World Heritage Centre's website *Baseline: 0*
	8. Develop or strengthen legal frameworks to ensure the allocation of adequate human and financial resources for the conservation and management of World Heritage	By enshrining the sustainability of funding into the legal provisions for World Heritage (see also ER 2.6) By ensuring the sustainable availability of adequate human and financial resources for all aspects of World Heritage	States Parties	▲	▲	▲			By 2030, at least 75% of World Heritage properties in the region benefit from an operational framework ensuring long-term sustainable funding for World Heritage *Baseline: 53% (Q II.6.1.4)* By 2030, at least 75% of the World Heritage properties in the region benefit from human resources that fully meet the conservation and management needs *Baseline: 47% (Q II.6.1.7)*
ER 2.2 ***Strong coordination and cooperation exist between all stakeholders involved in World Heritage, including civil society***	**9.** Strengthen collaboration and synergies and improve consultation/coordination mechanisms among: *(i)* *focal points of different Conventions (Biodiversity-related Conventions and*	By reinforcing coordination between the Focal Points of different Conventions, programmes and designations at national and site levels By integrating objectives related to World Heritage into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)	States Parties (at all levels) Civil Society C2Cs		▲	▲	▲		By 2030, all properties that are Multi-Internationally Designated Areas (MIDAS) or include other internationally recognised elements have a formal coordination mechanism in place between Focal Points of relevant Conventions and programmes for cultural, natural or mixed heritage,

Expected Results (ER)	Actions/Activities	Approach	Key Actors/Partners	Strategic Objective(s)					Performance Indicator(s)
				1 - Credibility	2 - Conservation	3 - Capacity Building	4 - Communication	5 - Communities	
	UNESCO Culture Conventions), programmes and designations at national and site levels *(ii) ministries/agencies involved in heritage conservation and management, including between agencies responsible for natural and cultural heritage* ***(iii)*** *World Heritage properties, e.g. via twinning programmes (regionally and/or globally)*	By ensuring coordination between principal agencies/institutions and other government agencies or line ministries (e.g. those responsible for tourism, defence, public works, fishery, agriculture) for the identification, protection, conservation, and presentation of World Heritage By engaging in twinning programmes between World Heritage properties	UNESCO Field Offices						intangible heritage, etc. *Baseline: TBD* By 2030, all States Parties include objectives related to World Heritage into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) *Baseline: TBD* By 2030, most States Parties in the region report full and effective cooperation between principal agencies/institutions for the identification, protection, conservation, and presentation of World Heritage *Baseline: 53% (Q I.7.1)* By 2030, most States Parties report full and effective cooperation between principal agencies/institutions and other government agencies or line ministries (e.g. those responsible for tourism, defence, public works, fishery, agriculture) for the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of heritage *Baseline: 40% (Q I.7.2)* By 2028, at least 40% of properties in the region engage in twinning programmes for World Heritage *Baseline: 31% of States Parties (Q I.11.2), 18 World Heritage properties (Q I.11.3)*

Expected Results (ER)	Actions/Activities	Approach	Key Actors/Partners	Strategic Objective(s)					Performance Indicator(s)
				1 - Credibility	2 - Conservation	3 - Capacity Building	4 - Communication	5 - Communities	
	10. Reinforce cooperation for serial transnational and transboundary properties to strengthen coordinated conservation and presentation	By instituting or reinforcing the role of supra-national management bodies for serial transnational or transboundary properties By organising regular meetings of the national Focal Points and site management authorities to ensure overall coordination and information flow between component sites By developing a single, joint Management Plan for each serial transnational or transboundary property By preparing and submitting joint reports on the state of conservation of serial transnational or transboundary properties to the World Heritage Committee, if requested	States Parties C2Cs Training institutions/ research centres/ universities Advisory Bodies UNESCO	▲	▲	▲			By 47 COM, a single, joint report on the state of conservation is prepared and submitted for each serial transnational or transboundary property under review by the World Heritage Committee *Baseline: 0* By 2030, each serial transnational or transboundary properties have a supra-national management body that meets at least once a year *Baseline: TBD* By 2030, most serial transnational or transboundary properties in the region have a joint Management Plan for the property or are in the process of finalising it *Baseline: 1 of 5*
ER 2.3 ***The conservation of World Heritage properties is improved through effective governance, proper documentation and information management***	**11.** Finalise all retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value (rSOUVs) for adoption by the World Heritage Committee	By finalising ongoing statutory processes for rSOUVs By reflecting any change to the properties in line with the Operational Guidelines	States Parties Advisory Bodies UNESCO (WHC and Field Offices)	▲	▲				By 2028, all properties in the region have an SOUV in line with the requirements of the Operational Guidelines *Baseline: 267 sites out of 278 have an SOUV*
	12. Promote a better understanding of the properties' OUV, attributes and associated values for all stakeholders for a more holistic approach to World Heritage conservation and management	By developing a clear identification of the attributes of OUV and any other heritage values associated with the site, including linkages between nature and culture, tangible and intangible heritage	States Parties (at all levels) C2Cs Advisory Bodies UNESCO (WHC and Field Offices)	▲	▲		▲		By 2027, all properties in the region have identified attributes of OUV and the sites' other heritage values *Baseline: 98% (Q II.3.2)* By 2030, most properties in the region have made a summary of the attributes of OUV and key elements of the site

Expected Results (ER)	Actions/Activities	Approach	Key Actors/Partners	Strategic Objective(s)					Performance Indicator(s)
				1 - Credibility	2 - Conservation	3 - Capacity Building	4 - Communication	5 - Communities	
		By making the identified elements available to the public in a user-friendly format (see also Action 28) By using the identification of attributes of OUV in the development of key documents for World Heritage, e.g. the legal framework for the property, Management Plans, Desired State of Conservation for the Removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR) (see also ER 2.6 below)							accessible to the general public *Baseline: TBD*
	13. Carry out the necessary boundary clarifications for properties and their buffer zones for adoption by the World Heritage Committee, and promote a better understanding of the property delineations and the applicable protection mechanisms	By ensuring a clear identification of the properties' boundaries, buffer zone(s) (where applicable) and wider setting By submitting any required boundary clarifications for adoption by the World Heritage Committee, in line with the Operational Guidelines By making the property delineations available to the general public in a user-friendly format (see also Action 28) By reflecting the boundaries and possible buffer zone(s) as adopted by the World Heritage Committee, along with the wider setting of the property, in key documents, e.g. the legal framework for the property, Management Plans, DSOCR (see also ER 2.6 below)	States Parties (at all levels) Advisory Bodies UNESCO (WHC and Field Offices)	▲	▲		▲		By 2030, all properties in the region have provided boundary clarifications at the request of the Secretariat or on their own initiative *Baseline: 135 property boundary clarifications requested by the Secretariat in 2020. Boundary clarifications submitted by States Parties for 77 properties by June 2023* By 2030, most properties in the region have made a summary of the property delineations accessible to the public *Baseline: TBD*

Expected Results (ER)	Actions/Activities	Approach	Key Actors/Partners	Strategic Objective(s)					Performance Indicator(s)
				1 - Credibility	2 - Conservation	3 - Capacity Building	4 - Communication	5 - Communities	
	14. Develop or revise a set of monitoring indicators for each property (and/or component site) to better conserve the properties' OUV	By developing or revising monitoring indicators to assess the state of conservation of properties and their OUV (or that of component sites for serial properties), including based on the evaluation at the time of inscription	States Parties Advisory Bodies UNESCO (WHC and Field Offices) Training institutions/ research centres/universities UNESCO Chairs	▲	▲	▲			By 2030, all properties in the region use clearly defined and up-to-date monitoring indicators for the property and/or for individual component sites of the property *Baseline: 46% of properties have defined key indicators and use them to monitor how the OUV of the property is being preserved (see Q II.10.2)*
	15. Improve monitoring and self-evaluation systems for conservation and management effectiveness, notably by: i) Organising regular meetings of national Focal Points and Site Managers ii) Taking part in the Action Plan mid-cycle monitoring survey(s)	By organising regular meetings of national Focal Points for World Heritage to reflect on conservation and management effectiveness By organising regular meetings of World Heritage Site Managers at the national level By participating in regional and/or global meetings of national Focal Points and World Heritage Site Managers (e.g. Site Managers' Forum, World Heritage Marine Managers Conference) By encouraging joint meetings between managers of cultural and natural properties By taking part in the Action Plan mid-cycle monitoring survey(s) By undertaking management effectiveness evaluations of sites	States Parties (at all levels)		▲	▲	▲		By 2028, most national Focal Points participate in a national, regional or global meeting of peers at least once a year *Baseline: TBD* By 2028, each State Party with more than one inscribed property organises at least one meeting of World Heritage Site Managers per year *Baseline: TBD* By 2027, all States Parties take part in the mid-cycle monitoring survey(s) for this Action Plan *Baseline: 0* By 2030, at least 50% of the States Parties make use of the Enhancing Our Heritage 2.0 (EOH) framework *Baseline: 0*

Expected Results (ER)	Actions/Activities	Approach	Key Actors/Partners	Strategic Objective(s)					Performance Indicator(s)
				1 - Credibility	2 - Conservation	3 - Capacity Building	4 - Communication	5 - Communities	
		through the Enhancing Our Heritage (EOH) framework							
ER 2.4 ***Strategies are developed to strengthen conservation and management practices in line with sustainable development objectives***	**16.** Promote the implementation and mainstreaming of the 2015 *Policy Document for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective into the Processes of the World Heritage Convention* and other sustainable development frameworks for World Heritage	By implementing the UNESCO Tourism Management Assessment Tool By using the UNESCO sustainable tourism tools and publications By using the Panorama Nature-Culture Solutions platform By encouraging thematic approaches to sustainability (e.g. on sustainable livelihoods linked to heritage, water management)	States Parties (at all levels) Advisory Bodies C2Cs UNESCO (WHC and Field Offices)	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	By 2027, at least 5 studies have been published and disseminated in the region, exploring the links between sustainability and specific types of heritage *Baseline: 0* By 2030, at least 50% of the properties use the UNESCO Tourism Management Assessment Tool *Baseline: 37 properties (14%) (Q II.9.10)* By 2030, most States Parties use the UNESCO sustainable tourism tools and publications *Baseline: TB*D
	17. Implement: i) Management plans and/or systems at all stages of World Heritage processes in line with the Operational Guidelines and the 2015 World Heritage Policy Document on Sustainable Development ii) Guidelines for properties in urban settings, in accordance with the	By ensuring that management systems reflect the principles of the 2015 World Heritage Policy Document on Sustainable Development and the 2030 Agenda By ensuring that the management system for World Heritage and urban heritage guidelines integrate smoothly into national frameworks By developing or reinforcing management strategies that recognise the links between heritage and the well-	States Parties (at all levels) Advisory Bodies Organisation of the World Heritage Cities C2Cs UNESCO (WHC and Field Offices)		▲	▲	▲	▲	By 2030, most properties in the region benefit from management systems/plans that fully integrate the principles of the 2030 Agenda, the 2015 World Heritage Policy Document on Sustainable Development, and the 2011 *UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape*, where appropriate *Baseline: TBD (see Q II.5.3.5, 5.3.17)* By 2030, properties in an urban setting benefit from sustainable urban heritage guidelines in line with the principles of the

Expected Results (ER)	Actions/Activities	Approach	Key Actors/Partners	Strategic Objective(s)					Performance Indicator(s)
				1 - Credibility	2 - Conservation	3 - Capacity Building	4 - Communication	5 - Communities	
	principles of the 2011 *UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape* (HUL)	being of communities (e.g. through the World Heritage Leadership Programme)							2011 *UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape* *Baseline: TBD (see Q II.5.3.5)*
	18. Ensure: i) The appropriate balance of heritage conservation and development for the benefit of all World Heritage stakeholders ii) The effective implementation of regulatory frameworks for Impact Assessments, in line with up-to-date guidelines	By using the available guidance and good practice examples on how to balance heritage conservation with development and the other needs of stakeholders By better integrating heritage conservation into large-scale planning programmes and policies, including national-level programmes for tangible and intangible heritage conservation By ensuring appropriate impact assessments for major projects, in line with the Operational Guidelines, following the 2022 *Guidance and Toolkits for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context* By reinforcing capacities at the national and local levels for impact assessments (incl. Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA), Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) and Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA)), in line with up-to-date guidelines By integrating or enhancing the use of traditional knowledge and techniques in conservation activities and processes	States Parties (at all levels) Technical partners for impact assessments Advisory Bodies UNESCO (WHC and Field Offices)		▲	▲			For properties where significant restoration or development projects are planned, management authorities proactively commission impact assessments in line with the current guidelines and submit them to the World Heritage Centre for review by the Advisory Bodies *Baseline: 0* By 2027, World Heritage stakeholders in most States Parties have received at least biannual training for Impact Assessments for World Heritage *Baseline: 0* Most properties in the region that showcase building crafts and/or traditional knowledge have integrated their safeguarding and use into management frameworks *Baseline: TBD*

Expected Results (ER)	Actions/Activities	Approach	Key Actors/Partners	Strategic Objective(s)					Performance Indicator(s)
				1 - Credibility	2 - Conservation	3 - Capacity Building	4 - Communication	5 - Communities	
ER 2.5 ***The resilience of World Heritage properties is reinforced***	**19.** Develop, revise and/or implement climate adaptation and mitigation plans as well as Disaster/Risk Preparedness Plans, in line with up-to-date guidance and policies	By advocating and communicating about the importance of heritage resilience for sustainable approaches By incorporating the principles of the current *Policy document on the impacts of climate change on World Heritage properties*, especially concerning Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and the resilience of heritage By making use of the UNESCO Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws and the good practice examples shared on the WHC website By identifying potential shared approaches between sites (e.g. for ecological corridors, flyways) and facilitating exchanges between properties within the region and beyond By employing the use of new technology and geospatial tools for risk assessment, disaster preparedness and mitigation planning	States Parties (at all levels) Advisory Bodies C2Cs UNESCO (WHC and Field Offices)		▲	▲	▲		By 2027, all properties concerned in the region use the current *Policy document on the impacts of climate change on World Heritage properties* *Baseline: 101 properties (38%)* *(Q II.5.3.7)* By 2030, all properties concerned in the region use the Strategy for Reducing Risks from Disasters at World Heritage Properties *Baseline: 162 properties (60%)* *(Q II.5.3.9)* By 2030, at least 10 properties across the region have developed shared approaches on DRR, impacts of climate change and resilience, in conjunction with other sites *Baseline: 0* By 2030, World Heritage management authorities use new technology and geospatial tools for risk assessment, disaster preparedness and mitigation planning *Baseline: 0*
	20. Implement recovery and emergency assistance programmes targeting World Heritage properties	By ensuring fair and equitable access to dedicated recovery funding at all levels for World Heritage properties and their key stakeholders (see Action 34) By making use of all national and international support mechanisms for post-disaster situations, including International Assistance under the World	States Parties (at all levels) Advisory Bodies UNESCO (WHC and Field Offices)		▲	▲			By 2030, most concerned States Parties have made recovery funding available to World Heritage properties and/or included World Heritage properties in recovery programmes *Baseline: TBD*

Expected Results (ER)	**Actions/Activities**	**Approach**	**Key Actors/Partners**	**Strategic Objective(s)**					**Performance Indicator(s)**
				1 - Credibility	**2 - Conservation**	**3 - Capacity Building**	**4 - Communication**	**5 - Communities**	
		Heritage Fund and the Rapid Response Facility							
ER 2.6 ***The legal provisions for World Heritage conservation are adequate and implemented***	**21.** Strengthen the existing legal frameworks for World Heritage conservation and ensure their effective implementation	By including key information, e.g. boundaries and attributes of OUV as adopted by the World Heritage Committee into the legal framework for each property or component site (see also ER 2.3) By ensuring that the legal framework for World Heritage is adequately implemented for the day-to-day activities at the property By making use of the UNESCO Database of National Cultural Heritage Laws	States Parties (at all levels)	▲	▲	▲			By 2030, all properties benefit from a legal framework that includes up-to-date, key information about the property *Baseline: TBD* By 2030, all States Parties consider that the legal framework for World Heritage is adequate and fully implemented *Baseline: TBD (see Q I.5.5.1, 5.6.1 and 5.7.1)* By 2030, all properties consider that the legal framework for the property is adequate and fully implemented *Baseline: 211 properties (Q II.5.2.3)*
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: ***PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE CAPACITY-BUILDING MEASURES, INCLUDING ASSISTANCE FOR PREPARING THE NOMINATION OF SITES TO THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST, FOR THE UNDERSTANDING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION AND RELATED INSTRUMENTS***									
ER 3.1 ***States Parties have fully operational capacity-building strategies for World Heritage***	**22.** Encourage and guide States Parties to develop national capacity-building strategies in line with the current World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy (WHCBS).	By fully implementing the WHCBS By developing or updating a capacity-building strategy for World Heritage at the national level By requesting ad hoc assistance on capacity building from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, including by requesting support under the World Heritage Fund, notably	States Parties (at local and national levels) C2Cs Advisory Bodies UNESCO Chairs Training institutions/	▲		▲			By 2030, all States Parties have a dedicated national capacity-building strategy for World Heritage that is fully implemented *Baseline: 11 countries (25%) (see Q.I.10.8, see also Q.I.5.14.1, 9.3, 9.4)* Capacity-building activities are reflected on the dedicated UNESCO webpage *Baseline: 0*

Expected Results (ER)	Actions/Activities	Approach	Key Actors/Partners	Strategic Objective(s)					Performance Indicator(s)
				1 - Credibility	2 - Conservation	3 - Capacity Building	4 - Communication	5 - Communities	
		through its International Assistance mechanism	research centres/ universities UNESCO (WHC and Field Offices)						
	23. Improve the implementation of capacity-building strategies for World Heritage at the national level, including training for heritage professionals	By establishing heritage education, volunteer and traineeship programmes at national and local heritage institutions related to World Heritage By providing capacity-building on World Heritage in the language(s) spoken by the core audiences concerned, including heritage professionals and local communities (e.g. translating resource manuals, developing training courses in relevant languages) By promoting the use of existing mechanisms, tools and institutions (e.g. C2Cs, UNESCO Chairs, Competence Framework Training, World Heritage Leadership Programme)	States Parties (at local and national levels) C2Cs Advisory Bodies Heritage professionals Policymakers Local communities UNESCO Chairs UNESCO (WHC and Field Offices)			▲	▲	▲	By 2028, all States Parties have at least one volunteer or traineeship programme that is operational each year at a national or local heritage institution related to World Heritage *Baseline: TBD* By 2030, at least 75% of States Parties in the region have developed capacity-building resources for World Heritage and made them available in national/local languages *Baseline: TBD* By 2027, most States Parties use existing conservation and monitoring mechanisms, tools and institutions and reflect them in capacity-building activities *Baseline: TBD*
ER 3.2 ***Training on World Heritage is broadly available across the region, including for the public, and experiences are shared***	**24.** Develop dedicated World Heritage training for the public and heritage professionals at all levels	By developing capacity-building activities (online, in person) on the development of nomination dossiers (incl. Upstream Process) By developing training opportunities for marketing and promotion of World Heritage for professionals in the field	States Parties (at local and national levels) Site managers Heritage practitioners UNESCO Chairs			▲	▲		By 2030, at least 15 capacity-building activities on the Upstream process and available options for preparatory assistance are organised across the sub-regions *Baseline: 0* By 2030, at least 2 training workshops on marketing, promotion and interpretation of

Expected Results (ER)	Actions/Activities	Approach	Key Actors/Partners	Strategic Objective(s)					Performance Indicator(s)
				1 - Credibility	2 - Conservation	3 - Capacity Building	4 - Communication	5 - Communities	
through professional networks		By providing substantive training opportunities on specific aspects of heritage conservation and management (e.g. risk preparedness, impact assessments, boundaries and buffer zones, sustainable development) By organising specific activities on heritage awareness for young people at World Heritage properties By developing Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) on World Heritage (See also Action 28) By using the Competency Framework developed by the UNESCO Office in Bangkok	Academics C2Cs UNESCO Field Offices						World Heritage are organised each year in the region and made accessible online *Baseline: TBD* By 2027, online training workshops on risk preparedness are organised and made accessible online in both Asia and the Pacific *Baseline: TBD* By 2025, at least 4 representatives of Youth are systematically involved in all kinds of capacity-building activities *Baseline: TBD* By 2030, existing MOOCs have been advertised, and 2 MOOCS on World Heritage, respectively in Asia and the Pacific, have been developed *Baseline: 0*
	25. Develop networks and facilitate the sharing of experiences among all World Heritage stakeholders	By establishing a well-managed database of and/or platform for heritage experts, training institutions and universities By strengthening networks at the local level (see also ER 4.1) By enhancing sharing of experience, peer learning and transfer of knowledge, including traditional/indigenous knowledge, by: a) Strengthening networks of site managers as well as the capacity	States Parties (at local and national levels) Site managers Heritage practitioners UNESCO Chairs Academics ICOMOS National Committees International Scientific Committees			▲	▲	▲	By 2027, most site managers from the region participate in at least one international meeting of Site Managers each year, including thematic meetings *Baseline: TBD* By 2030, gender-sensitive databases of national experts for World Heritage, relevant training institutions, and universities are established and/or updated *Baseline: TBD*

Expected Results (ER)	Actions/Activities	Approach	Key Actors/Partners	Strategic Objective(s)					Performance Indicator(s)
				1 - Credibility	2 - Conservation	3 - Capacity Building	4 - Communication	5 - Communities	
		of heritage management institutions; b) establishing a credible and gender-sensitive database of heritage experts, training institutions and universities	C2Cs UNESCO (WHC and Field Offices)						
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS, INVOLVEMENT AND SUPPORT FOR WORLD HERITAGE THROUGH COMMUNICATION									
ER 4.1 ***Heritage education, communication and awareness-raising are enhanced***	**26.** Develop collaboration between C2Cs, heritage institutions, universities and national education programmes to integrate World Heritage education into curricula at different levels	By developing school projects/school days on World Heritage and school trips to World Heritage sites and/or museums/cultural institutions/natural sites By integrating World Heritage into school curricula, notably using the UNESCO World Heritage in Young Hands kit By encouraging internships in the field of World Heritage as part of the curricula of universities and education institutions By strengthening partnerships between education institutions at all levels and UNESCO Chairs By providing scholarships for early career professionals and/or research opportunities in the field of World Heritage	National authorities responsible for Education Educational institutions (universities, higher-education institutions) Local authorities responsible for heritage UNESCO Chairs C2Cs			▲	▲	▲	By 2027, at least 5 countries report recent school initiatives around World Heritage *Baseline: TBD* By 2023, World Heritage is integrated into the national curricula of at least 10 countries in the region *Baseline: 1* By 2030, internships and/or scholarships are available in the field of World Heritage in at least 5 countries *Baseline: TBD* By 2030, at least 5 UNESCO Chairs in the region have an outreach programme or formalised partnerships on World Heritage with other education institutions at the national or regional levels *Baseline: TBD*

Expected Results (ER)	Actions/Activities	Approach	Key Actors/Partners	Strategic Objective(s)					Performance Indicator(s)
				1 - Credibility	2 - Conservation	3 - Capacity Building	4 - Communication	5 - Communities	
	27. Strengthen awareness raising about World Heritage among the public, especially youth and women, to promote good practices for conservation and management	By translating UNESCO guidance documents, policies and recommendations into national languages By strengthening active communication and cooperation between local decision makers of World Heritage sites at the national/regional level By developing and implementing heritage interpretation programmes for World Heritage properties, especially targeted at the domestic audience By creating and/or reinforcing collaborations with travel agencies and tour guide associations By encouraging participation in World Heritage Youth Forum meetings, especially the involvement of women	States Parties (national and local authorities) C2Cs Broadcasting organisations and media Private sector			▲	▲	▲	By 2030, at least 15 States Parties have translated UNESCO guidance documents, policies and/or recommendations into national languages *Baseline: 8* By 2030, at least 3 international meetings of World Heritage local decision makers have been organised in the region *Baseline: 0* By 2030, each country with a World Heritage property has at least 1 interpretation or awareness-raising programme targeting the domestic audience *Baseline: TBD* By 2030, at least 5 good practice examples of cooperation with travel agencies and/or tour guide associations are reported in the region *Baseline: 0* By 2030, at least 15 representatives from States Parties in the region take part in the World Heritage Youth Forum meetings, of which at least 8 women *Baseline: 0*
	28. Develop communication materials on World Heritage to be translated into national/local languages and disseminated	By developing user-friendly, synthetic materials (in print and online) about • World Heritage and its implications at the national level, • Individual World Heritage properties and the benefits and implications of	States Parties (national and local levels) C2Cs UNESCO Chairs			▲	▲	▲	By 2030, at least 75% of countries have developed user-friendly guidance on World Heritage in the national language(s) *Baseline: TBD* By 2027, at least 5 good practice examples of World Heritage-related

Expected Results (ER)	Actions/Activities	Approach	Key Actors/Partners	Strategic Objective(s)					Performance Indicator(s)
				1 - Credibility	2 - Conservation	3 - Capacity Building	4 - Communication	5 - Communities	
		World Heritage status for local communities, including Indigenous peoples, • Summaries of the management plan and other planning regulations for local communities, including Indigenous peoples to be made available in the national language(s) By developing dedicated content on World Heritage for youth audiences (e.g. cartoons, young reader book series, educational programmes, video games) and disseminating it in several languages By developing freely available online classes (e.g. MOOCs) on World Heritage or integrating World Heritage into existing course contents (see also Action 25)	UNESCO Education Sector Private sector UNESCO Field Offices						content focused on youths and produced in the region have been shared with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre *Baseline: 0* By 2030, at least 1 online course on World Heritage in Asia and the Pacific is made available *Baseline: TBD*
ER 4.2 ***World Heritage in Asia and the Pacific is promoted, supporting the full and effective participation of communities, including youth and women***	**29.** Leverage opportunities presented by national and international cultural and natural heritage commemorations to support the participation of communities, including youth and women, in World Heritage activities	By organising commemorative ceremonies/symposiums and involving communities in these events, especially youth and women By celebrating (Inter)national Days/Months/Years, producing dedicated outreach materials and organising events for the occasion	States Parties (national and local levels) C2Cs UNESCO Field Offices				▲	▲	By 2030, at least one event per year (online or in person, e.g. ceremony, symposium, heritage day celebration, media campaign) is organised for each World Heritage property in the region *Baseline: 0* By 2030, 30% of participants in commemorative and promotional activities are women and youth *Baseline: TBD*

Expected Results (ER)	Actions/Activities	Approach	Key Actors/Partners	Strategic Objective(s)					Performance Indicator(s)
				1 - Credibility	2 - Conservation	3 - Capacity Building	4 - Communication	5 - Communities	
	30. Improve communication about the benefits of World Heritage for communities and society at large	By strengthening communication between site managers and local communities, including Indigenous peoples By enhancing the sharing of experiences and success stories (see also Action 33)	Site managers National Focal Points Advisory Bodies Civil society (incl. Academics) UNESCO (WHC and Field Offices)	▲			▲	▲	By 2030, at least 5 success stories on the benefits of World Heritage for communities have been shared with UNESCO and published on UNESCO's websites (e.g. https://www.unesco.org/en/stories, http://whc.unesco.org/en/casestudies) and on social media channels *Baseline: 0* By 2030, at least 2 publications have been developed in the region and have highlighted evidence of success stories *Baseline: 0* By 2030, at least half of the World Heritage properties from the region have updated or revised their website *Baseline: 0*
	31. Further promote the use of social media for awareness raising about World Heritage	By using knowledge acquired as part of capacity-building activities on marketing and promotion for World Heritage (see Action 24) By promoting the use of dedicated hashtags on social media, such as #ShareOurHeritage (https://en.unesco.org/covid19/cultureresponse/exploring-world-heritage-from-home-with-unesco) By developing e-tourism platforms for cultural and natural heritage (e.g. Google Arts and Culture, 3D visualisation/reconstruction of sites, drone and video footage).	States Parties (national and local levels) Tourism sector Local and national museums and heritage institutions Local communities, including Indigenous peoples			▲	▲	▲	By 2030, at least half of the properties organise outreach activities on social media each year using dedicated hashtags *Baseline: 0* By 2027, at least 25% of properties offer the possibility of virtual visits and access using online platforms *Baseline: TBC*

Expected Results (ER)	Actions/Activities	Approach	Key Actors/Partners	Strategic Objective(s)					Performance Indicator(s)
				1 - Credibility	2 - Conservation	3 - Capacity Building	4 - Communication	5 - Communities	
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5: STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT FOR EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF WORLD HERITAGE PROPERTIES									
ER 5.1 ***The role and involvement of local and indigenous communities in the conservation and management of World Heritage properties are strengthened in cooperation with other stakeholders***	**32.** Strengthen the conservation and management capacities of community-based organisations, local communities, including Indigenous peoples, and all other stakeholders.	By involving local communities, including Indigenous peoples from the early stages of heritage identification and nomination By ensuring ongoing dialogue about the involvement of local communities, including Indigenous peoples, in heritage processes (e.g. through town hall meetings to clarify heritage values, roles and responsibilities, benefit sharing mechanisms, or the implementation of management plans) By improving direct access of local stakeholders to public funding for capacity building, training and on-site activities for heritage conservation and promotion, including for Indigenous peoples By making use of aid programmes, including the UNDP Global Environmental Facility (GEF), Small Grants Programme (SGP) or the UNESCO/UNDP Community Management of Protected Areas for Conservation (COMPACT) programme By using the Panorama Nature-Culture Solutions platform (See also Actions 23 and 24)	States Parties (national government in close cooperation with regional and local governments) NGOs (esp. those working with communities) Local communities, including Indigenous peoples Regional Organisations UNESCO (WHC and Field Offices) C2Cs Research institutions/universities/ UNESCO Chairs			▲		▲	By 2030, all nomination processes in the region that concern local communities and/or Indigenous peoples have involved them since the earliest stages *Baseline: 0* By 2030, all properties where local communities, including Indigenous peoples, are concerned have organised at least one dialogue meeting per year with local stakeholders *Baseline: TBD* By 2030, at least 20 good practice examples of projects carried out by local stakeholders using dedicated public funding and/or aid programmes are made available on the WHC website *Baseline: 0*

Expected Results (ER)	Actions/Activities	Approach	Key Actors/Partners	Strategic Objective(s)					Performance Indicator(s)
				1 - Credibility	2 - Conservation	3 - Capacity Building	4 - Communication	5 - Communities	
	33. Promote and disseminate people-centred approaches to the conservation and management of World Heritage	By supporting projects to integrate local and indigenous knowledge and practices, including traditional management systems, into World Heritage conservation and management mechanisms By sharing good practice examples of work done by States Parties, the Advisory Bodies and UNESCO By using the Panorama Nature-Culture Solutions platform By encouraging consideration of culture-nature linkages in both principles and practice of World Heritage conservation and management	States Parties (at all levels) NGOs Local communities, including Indigenous peoples C2Cs UNESCO (WHC and Field Offices) Advisory Bodies		▲	▲	▲	▲	By 2030, at least 25 projects integrating local/indigenous knowledge into conservation and management practices are carried out across the region *Baseline: 0* By 2030, at least 20 good practice examples of people-centred approaches are made available on the WHC website *Baseline: 0*
ER 5.2 ***World Heritage properties contribute to economic growth and benefits are shared equitably***	**34.** Reinforce the sustainability of heritage revenue, notably from tourism, and ensure equitable benefit sharing with local stakeholders of World Heritage properties.	By developing and implementing policies, frameworks and/or guidelines that ensure equitable benefit sharing from tourism revenue, especially for local communities, including Indigenous peoples By providing capacity-building to government officials and local stakeholders on means of deriving sustainable revenue from heritage-related activities, including through exchanges of experiences between World Heritage properties	States Parties (at all levels) NGOs Local communities, including Indigenous peoples C2Cs UNESCO Advisory Bodies	▲		▲		▲	By 2030, at least 75% of properties where local communities, including Indigenous peoples, are concerned, implement policies, frameworks and/or guidelines to ensure equitable benefit sharing of tourism revenue *Baseline: TBD* By 2030, at least 50% of properties in the region have organised regular capacity-building activities on sustainable and equitable benefit sharing from heritage revenue *Baseline: TBD*

* Baselines indicated by 0 refer to activities or processes that will be counted from the adoption of this Action Plan onwards.

** To be determined after the Mid-Cycle Review (scheduled for 2027).

7 DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision: 45 COM 10A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined document WHC/23/45.COM/10A,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **41 COM 10A**, **43 COM 10B** and **44 COM 10D** adopted at its 41st (Krakow, 2017), 43rd (Baku, 2019) and extended 44th (Fuzhou/online, 2021) sessions respectively;*
3. *Notes with satisfaction that the overwhelming majority of States Parties in the Asia and the Pacific region participated in the completion and submission of Section I (State Party level) and Section II (World Heritage property level) of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire;*
4. *Acknowledges that the region of Asia and the Pacific was the first to undergo the Periodic Reporting exercise entirely online due to the global sanitary situation, and thanks the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies, Category 2 Centres, the UNESCO Field Offices and in the region for adapting the training and accompaniment throughout the exercise in line with new engagement modalities;*
5. *Notes with satisfaction that a number of States Parties organised national meetings of Periodic Reporting stakeholders at different stages of the reporting process, and thanks the States Parties in the region for their flexibility and dedication throughout the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise in Asia and the Pacific, and especially the national Focal Points and World Heritage site managers for their commitment and active participation;*
6. *Thanks the State Party of the Republic of Korea, through its Cultural Heritage Administration, for its contributions towards supporting the implementation of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the region of Asia and the Pacific via the UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust mechanism;*
7. *Welcomes with satisfaction the Third Cycle Regional Report for the Asia and the Pacific region and encourages all States Parties to widely disseminate its main outcomes among all relevant stakeholders in the region;*
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, September 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);*
9. *Encourages States Parties to appropriate the Regional Framework Action Plan into their national and sub-regional heritage strategies and policies, and requests UNESCO, in collaboration with the Category 2 Centres, the Advisory Bodies and other partners, to support States Parties in its implementation;*
10. *Notes that the Republic of Korea has approved, under its Funds-in-Trust at UNESCO, an extra-budgetary project to be coordinated by the World Heritage Centre on transboundary heritage in the region and beyond, as a follow-up of the main priorities identified through the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting, invites the Advisory Bodies and other relevant technical partners to provide advisory services and participate in the activities associated with this project, and also encourages all interested Donors to*

support activities that are in line with the priorities and activities identified in the Framework Action Plan by making dedicated funding available to the World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Field Offices;

11. *Encourages States Parties in the region to initiate regular meetings at the regional and/or sub-regional level to ensure continuous implementation and monitoring of the Regional Framework Action Plan, and invites States Parties and other relevant stakeholders to support such efforts;*
12. *Takes note of the possible publication of a World Heritage Papers Series volume dedicated to the Third Periodic Report for the Asia and the Pacific region, if the financial situation permits, and encourages States Parties to make financial contributions available at the World Heritage Centre for this purpose;*
13. *Requests the UNESCO World Heritage Centre to monitor the implementation of the Framework Action Plan for Asia and the Pacific in view of preparing a mid-cycle assessment report after 3 years.*

ANNEXES

Annex 1 Quantitative Summary of the Outcomes for Section I

Annex 2 Quantitative Summary of the Outcomes for Section II

Annex 3 Summary of the Outcomes of the Monitoring Indicators