

Annex 1: Preliminary results of the Periodic Reporting Monitoring Indicators in the framework of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting across all regions.

The preliminary results of the Third Cycle Periodic Reporting Monitoring Indicators below are the outcomes from reporting exercise in all regions from 2018-2024. It aims to provide an initial key finding and trends in the preservation of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), the implementation and effectiveness of management systems, the adequacy of legal frameworks, the promotion of synergies between various UNESCO conventions, and efforts in sustainable development and capacity building. Each section highlights regional variations, challenges, and positive evolutions observed during the reporting period, offering a comprehensive overview of the progress and areas needing improvement in World Heritage site management and protection

I. State of conservation of World Heritage properties

- 1. Globally, the status of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for World Heritage properties demonstrates a generally positive trend. The percentage of properties maintaining their OUV increased from 84.7% in the second cycle to 85.9% in the third cycle, an improvement of 1.2 percentage points. This positive shift suggests effective global conservation practices are largely successful in preserving the core values of these properties. The data shows effective conservation efforts, with an overall increase in properties maintaining their OUV and a decrease in those impacted but addressed.
- 2. The percentage of properties where OUV is impacted but addressed decreased from 14.0% to 11.5%, a reduction of 2.5 percentage points. This could be interpreted that fewer properties are experiencing challenges requiring active management, reflecting successful mitigation of previously identified issues. However, the percentage of properties with seriously impacted OUV increased from 1.3% to 2.4%, a rise of 1.1 percentage points, indicating a growing number of sites facing severe threats to their OUV despite ongoing management efforts.

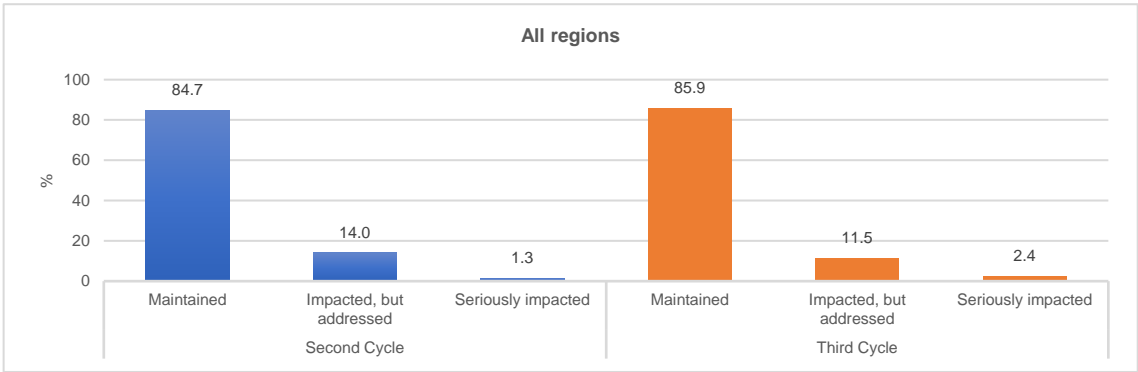


Figure 1: Percentage of properties (of total) considering that OUV has been maintained in current cycle vs previous cycle. (Indicator 2)

- 3. However, important regional differences are found and some regions identify growing concerns on their properties’ OUV being seriously impacted. In the Arab States, 1.7% of properties in the Second Cycle and 8.6% in the Third Cycle consider their properties’ OUV to be seriously impacted, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean, reporting 4.0% in the Second Cycle and 6.3% in the Third Cycle of their properties in the same condition.

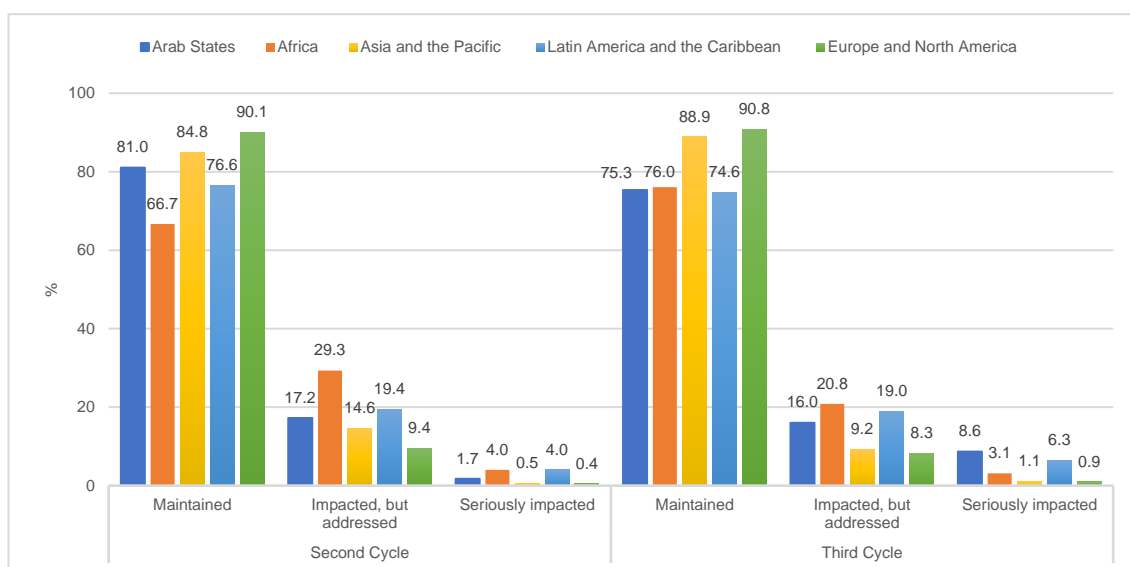


Figure 2: Percentage of properties (of total) considering that OUV has been maintained in current cycle vs previous cycle per region (Indicator 2)

4. Furthermore, the World Heritage site managers in charge of the daily management of World Heritage properties are requested to provide information on the factors affecting the properties. Analysing positive and negative factors affecting World Heritage properties during the reporting periods, data show different results per type of World Heritage, with a clear more positive evolution for mixed and natural properties. Even though the situation of factors impacting properties is quite stable in the Second Cycle and the Third Cycle, cultural properties tend to be affected by the increase of negative factors from the Second to the Third Cycle (from 10.9% to 11.6%); in the same line, cultural properties show a decrease in the impact of positive factors (from 17.1% to 14.3%).
5. On the contrary, natural properties and mixed properties show an opposite evolution. In particular, the impact of positive factors increased for natural properties by 5.8 percentage point (pp) difference between the two Cycles (from 11.2% to 17.0%). This type of properties also had a small decrease in the impact of negative factors. Similarly, negative factors affecting mixed properties reduced by 1.2 pp, while the positive factors increased by 4.9 pp during the same period.

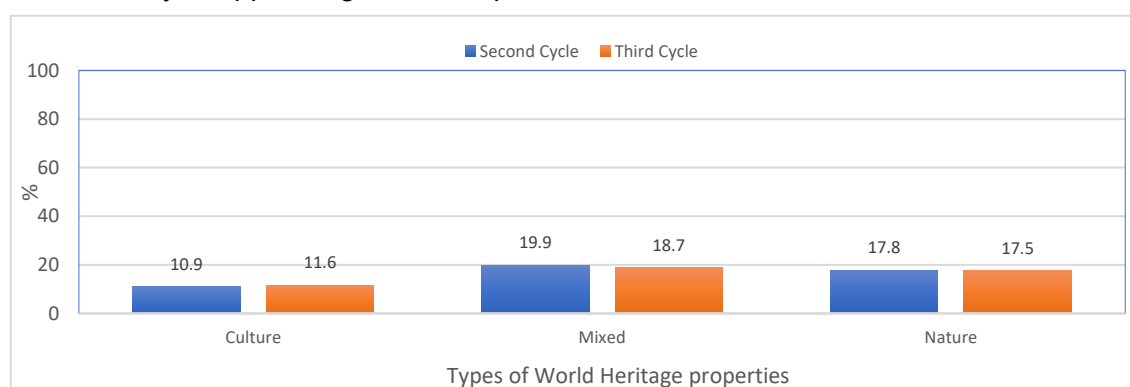


Figure 3: Evolution of negative factors during the Second and the Third Cycles in percentage (Indicator 3)

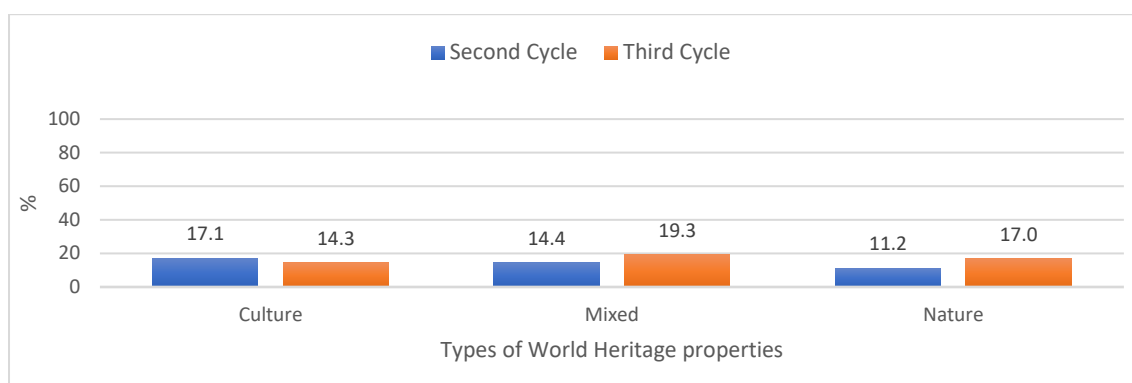


Figure 4: Evolution of positive factors during the Second and the Third Cycles in percentage (Indicator 3)

6. The comparison of the two Cycles demonstrates that this reduction of negative factors is shown in Asia and the Pacific for all types of inscribed World Heritage properties, with a very significant decrease of 8.7 pp for mixed properties in this region. The negative factors reduced in the Arab States for their natural properties by 6.0 pp. World Heritage properties in Africa reported a reduction of negative factors in cultural properties, while these factors augmented for mixed and natural heritage. Negative factors increased for all type of properties in Europe and North America.
7. On average, the positive factors are quite stable between the two Cycles. All the regions show a positive evolution regarding cultural, mixed and natural properties concerning the positive factors. Per region, Africa had the biggest positive evolution in this indicator, followed by Asia and the Pacific, and Europe and North America. Africa reported the biggest increase with 10.5 pp in natural, 8.4 pp in mixed and 3.9 pp for cultural properties. Asia and the Pacific improved by more than 5.0 pp in all type of properties.
8. Integrity is considered a measure of the wholeness and intactness of the natural and/or cultural heritage and its attributes. On average, 86.3% of properties for the Second Cycle and 87.2% for the Third Cycle report that the integrity is considered as intact by the site managers. But regional differences appear clearly: Latin America and the Caribbean reports fewer positive responses regarding intactness of the integrity, with similar numbers between the cycles (around 62.0%). Europe and North America reports a very high number of properties with their integrity intact for both Cycles (around 93%). Africa, and Asia and the Pacific present higher percentage of properties that consider their integrity to be intact in the Third Cycle compared to the Second Cycle.

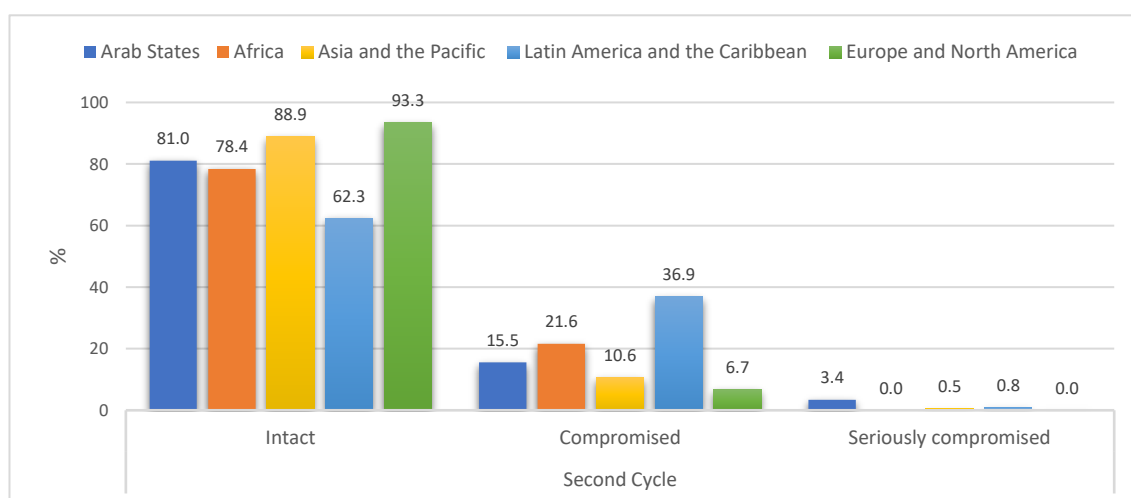


Figure 5: Percentage of properties considering that integrity is intact in the Second Cycle (Indicator 4)

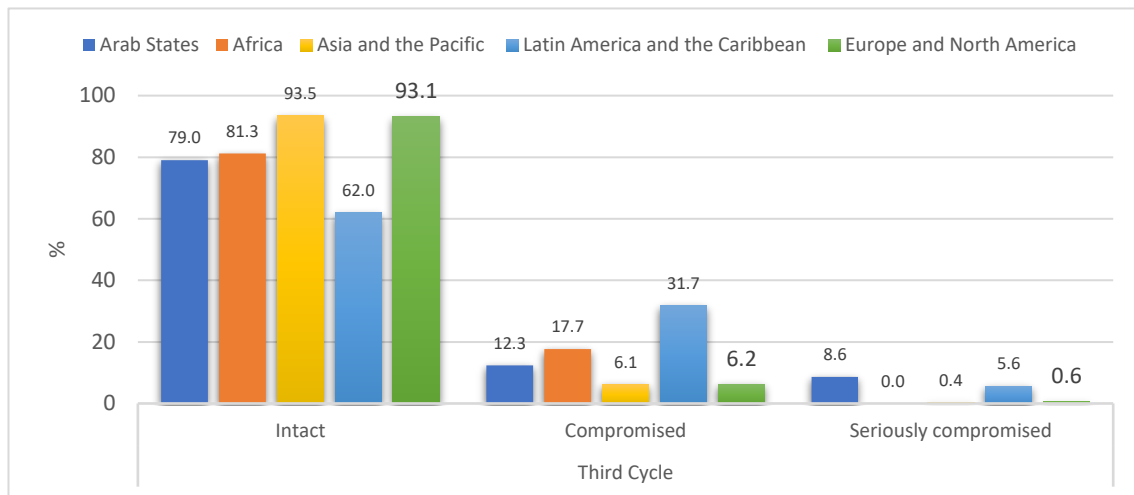


Figure 6: Percentage of properties considering that integrity is intact in the Third Cycle (Indicator 4)

9. Some regions identified their properties' integrity to be seriously compromised. This is the case of the Arab States, where 3.4% of the properties in the Second and 8.6% in the Third Cycle considered their integrity to be seriously compromised, which creates a distance with the rest of the regions. In Latin America and the Caribbean, while only 0.8% of the properties were considered to be seriously compromised for the Second Cycle, for the latest cycle of the Periodic Reporting, the percentage of properties considered in this condition increased by 4.8 pp.
10. The last indicator under the State of Conservation refers to authenticity, under which natural properties are not assessed. The [Nara Document on Authenticity](#) provides a practical basis for examining the authenticity of such properties. The results of the preserved authenticity vary from 66.7% to 89.9% among different regions. Therefore, most cultural and mixed properties preserve this key element of the OUV but showing differences among regions. While obtained results do not show significant decrease in preserved authenticity or a substantial increase to be highlighted regarding the seriously compromised properties, some regions offer noteworthy results that may require a deeper analysis. For example, for the African World Heritage properties, the properties that considered their authenticity to be preserved reduced by 10.7 pp. In the Arab States and the Latin America and the Caribbean regions, the World Heritage properties are more identified to be compromised or seriously compromised compared to other regions. In both regions, percentage of properties under this category increased between the Second and Third Cycles.
11. Looking at all the indicators under the State of Conservation, data show some general trends that can be concluded: the Outstanding Universal Value (85.9%), integrity (87.2%) and authenticity (81.9%) mostly remain intact or preserved at properties inscribed on the *World Heritage List*. In some regions, a higher number of properties with their OUV seriously impacted has been reported in the last Periodic Reporting cycle. In addition, the results appear more stable in some regions than others: issues such as political instabilities, conflicts, climate change or the effects of Covid-19 could explain part of the results and evolutions between cycles and differences among regions. The results of the positive and the negative factors illustrate a more positive evolution is identified in mixed and natural properties in all the regions.

II. Management

12. More than 90% of the properties have management plan or appropriate management system. Africa (95.8%) and Asia and the Pacific (95.1%) present the best results. However, when considering if these management systems are being fully implemented and monitored, a very different picture is obtained: just half of the World Heritage properties report an effective implementation of their management plan and worldwide

average does not rise above 55.2%. Asia and the Pacific reports a result of 72.6% and Europe and North America considers that it is being fully implemented monitored in 61% of their properties. The rest of the regions are far from these numbers and, in the Arab States, this effective implementation of management systems has even been reduced by 5.2 pp compared to the previous Cycle. On whether this management plan or system is adequate to maintain the OUV, different answers are given by the regions. Between both cycles, regions such as the Arab States and Africa have clearly improved in this indicator. The most negative results are seen in Latin America and the Caribbean, where the management plan is only considered adequate to maintain the OUV in 42.1% of the inscribed properties.

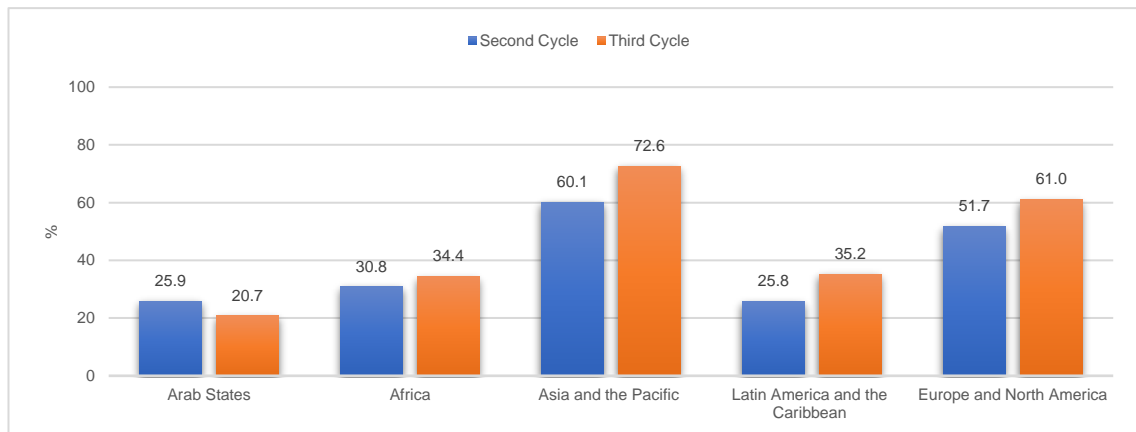


Figure 7: Percentage of properties where management system is being fully implemented and monitored in each region (Indicator 8)

13. Management also refers to the available budget at the World Heritage properties. In general, budget is inadequate to meet the current conservation, protection and presentation needs worldwide, with some clear regional differences. The Europe and North America region stands out in this matter: 18.0% of cultural and 23.4% of natural properties consider their budget as adequate. The rest of the regions are very far from these figures. The lowest results are identified in regions such as Africa, where there has been a decrease in resources between the two Cycles, and in Latin America and the Caribbean where, in culture, none of the States Parties reported to have an adequate budget.
14. The figures on human resources present similar results. Europe and North America show the best results (25.5% in culture and 34.0% in nature), followed by Asia and the Pacific (26.8% in culture and 20.0% in nature), which presented much more positive results comparing to the previous Cycle (7.3%). The Arab States also clearly improved in human resources. On the contrary, Latin America and the Caribbean saw decrease in the availability of human resources adequate to meet the management needs. This may be related, in part, to the completion of the Periodic Reporting exercise just after the Covid-19 pandemic.
15. Adequate coordination between all bodies/levels involved in the management of the property had a positive evolution between the Second and Third Cycle, except for the Arab States. The Asia and the Pacific region considered that 60.5% of properties have adequate coordination between all bodies/levels, followed by Europe and North America (53.6%). These two regions also improved the most in the capacity for coordination among management levels.

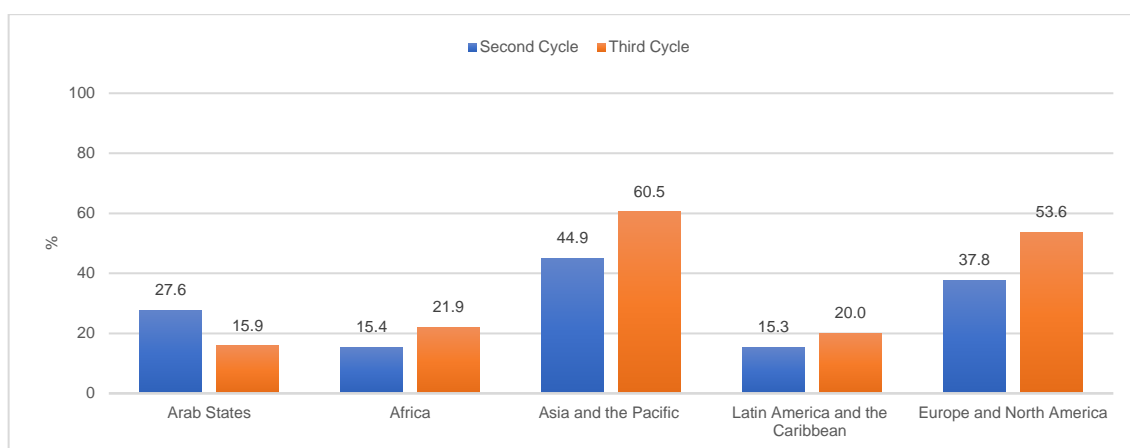


Figure 8: Percentage of properties where there is adequate coordination between all bodies/levels involved in the management of the property (Indicator 9)

16. Monitoring is considered as a key aspect on the conservation and protection of World Heritage properties. Following the results of the Periodic Reporting exercise, **around** half of the World Heritage properties reported to have a formal programme of monitoring (52.1%). Asia and the Pacific augmented the number of properties under this category and reached 67.9% of properties with a formal monitoring programme in the region, being the highest number among regions. Latin America and the Caribbean reports the best improvement among the regions. On the contrary, the Arab States had a decrease in the percentage of properties with a formal monitoring programme (from 36.2% to 25.6% from the Second to the Third Cycle).

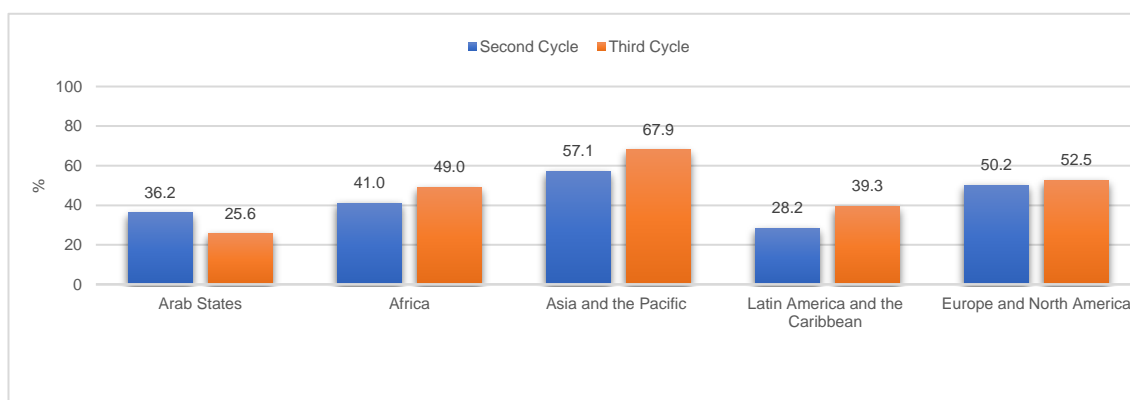


Figure 9: Percentage of properties with a formal programme of monitoring (Indicator 10)

17. Number of World Heritage properties where the monitoring indicators are defined presented very low results, except for the Arab States, where 74.4% of the properties have indicators defined for the monitoring purpose. The rest of the regions are far from this number, and Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean have a negative evolution during the analysed period. In a step forward, when requested about not just the definition of indicators but if those indicators are in use, Asia and the Pacific (86.3%) and Europe and North America (71.9%), followed by Arab States (50%) provided the best results.
18. Management activities as a factor have both positive and/or negative impact. This management impact is currently positive in a clear way: 87.8% of the World Heritage properties are positively impacted by management activities, with a positive evolution in all regions for the last years. Management impact is only considered as negative in just 5.7% of the World Heritage properties. Arab States and Latin America and the Caribbean identified the most negative impact in this sense, with a deterioration during the cycles.

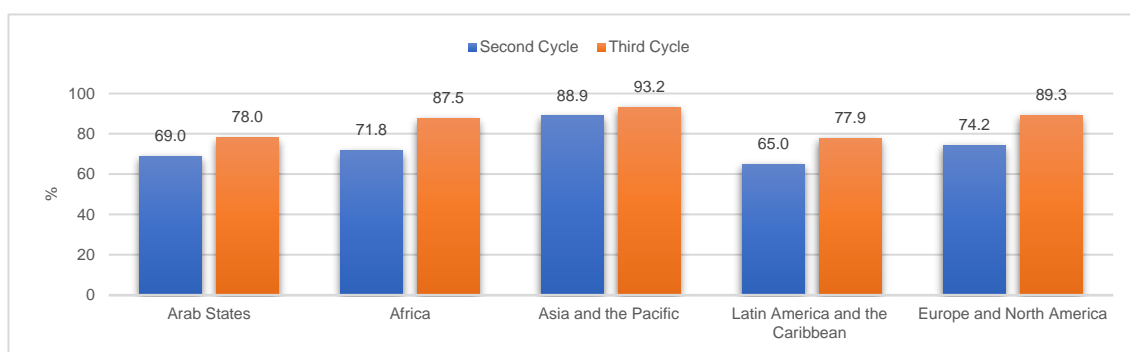


Figure 10: Management activities, as a factor, are having a positive current impact (Impact 11)

19. Last, it is interesting to underline that priority management needs identified in the Periodic Reporting questionnaire are being addressed in nearly all the properties, with an average of 94.3% for all the regions. Africa offered the best results in the implementation of actions to address priority management needs.

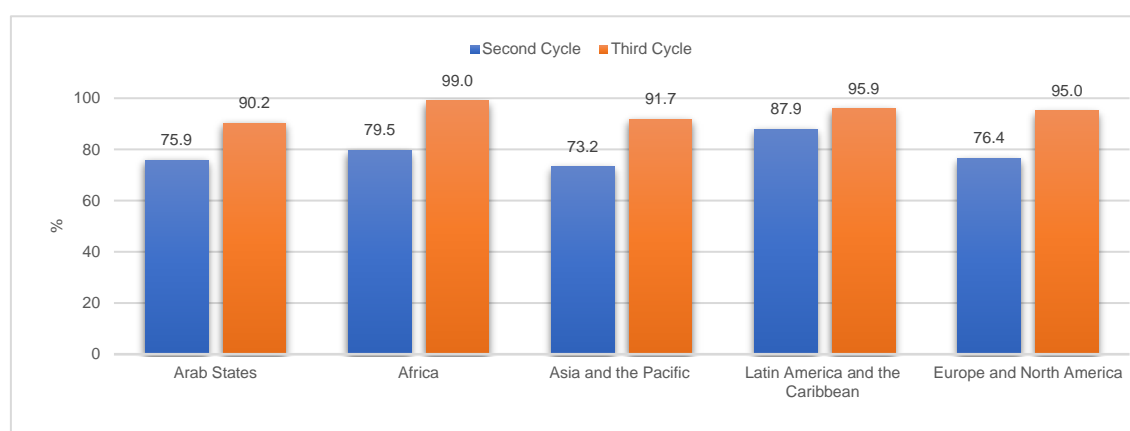


Figure 11: Percentage of properties where actions are being taken to address priority management needs (Indicator 12)

20. In summary, the impact of management is positive at World Heritage properties, with an overwhelming majority having management systems in place. However, they are only implemented effectively in half of the inscribed properties and there is an evident lack of funds and human resources. Management coordination between levels could be improved, although it has a positive evolution. Half of the properties have monitoring systems, even if the indicators still need to be strengthened.

III. Governance

21. The thematic area of governance is monitored in the Periodic Reporting exercise through different indicators and questions. Among them, the issue of a legal framework appropriate to the needs is addressed. Firstly, the States Parties are consulted if their legal framework is appropriate to identify their cultural and/or natural heritage. Globally, the responses indicate similar adequacy of this framework for the identification of cultural (64.3%) and natural (65.0%) properties. But behind this average, differences are hidden: 94% (for cultural) of and 92%(for natural) of the State Parties in Europe and North America consider that they have an adequate legal framework for heritage identification, offering the highest results. The Arab States and Africa reported their legal frameworks as less adequate for the identification of cultural and natural heritage.
22. Next, States Parties are consulted about the adequacy of that legal framework for the conservation and protection of the cultural and/or natural heritage. In this case, the percentage of the adequacy of the legal framework drops: only 51.3% for cultural and 57.1% for natural heritage are considered to have adequate legal framework for the conservation of heritage. The tendency to give better marks to the legal aspects for the protection of natural heritage is common to all regions. However, different regions once again offer very diverse data: Europe and North America present higher numbers than

the rest of the regions, with 76% positive responses in cultural heritage and 82% in natural heritage. The Arab States and Latin America and the Caribbean are the regions that consider their legal systems to be not sufficient to respond to conservation and protection needs. It should be noted that, both in the issue of identification and of conservation and protection, there is a drop in scores regarding the adequacy of legal aspects in the States Parties from the Second to the Third Cycle. This deterioration of the situation is significant in Arab States, Africa, and Asia and the Pacific.

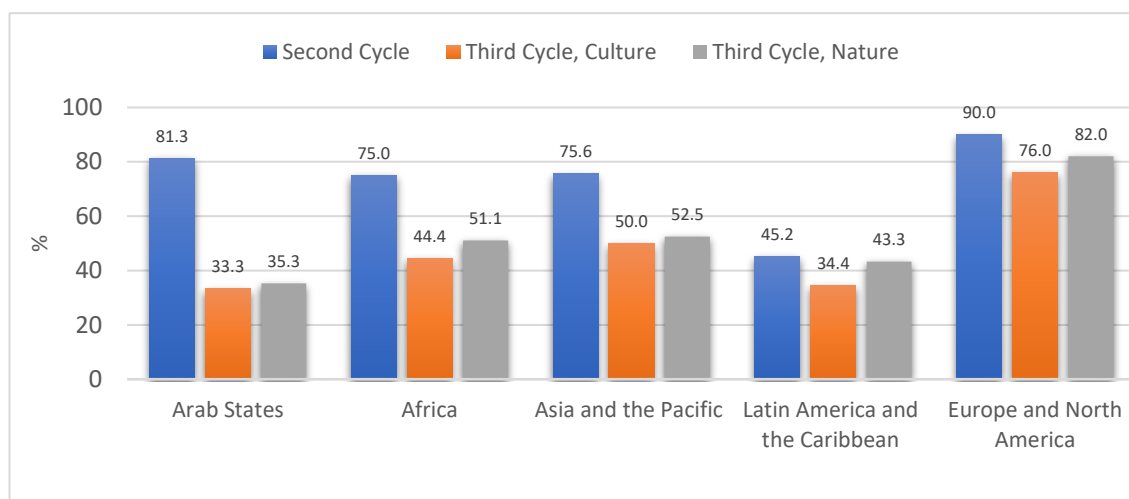


Figure 12: States Parties considering legal framework as adequate for the conservation and protection of heritage (Indicator 14)

23. The establishment of effective cooperation mechanisms between stakeholders is considered under governance in the Periodic Reporting exercise. Results from different regions offer diversity of realities in this case. Principal agencies and institutions are more coordinated in Europe and North America (58.8%) and Asia and the Pacific (52.4%). The figure significantly drops for the coordination between all principal agencies/institutions and other government agencies/institutions (Table 6). In this case, only the Asia and the Pacific region presents better results (40.5%). Different levels of government are similarly coordinated for culture and nature in all regions. The coordination is comparatively lower in Latin America and the Caribbean, where just 9.7% of the responses for culture and 12.5% for nature consider that the cooperation is in place. On the opposite part of the table, nearly all States Parties in Europe and North America identify cooperation as a reality between different levels of government. Cooperation of governmental levels with civil society is poor in Africa (8.9% for culture and 9.3% for nature) and Latin America and the Caribbean (9.4% for culture and 12.5% for nature), Europe and North America scores above 87% for both cultural and natural heritage.

Table 6: Percentage of States Parties where effective cooperation mechanisms between stakeholders are established (Indicator 15)

Region	% Third Cycle Cooperation between					
	principal agencies/ institutions	all principal agencies/ institutions and other government agencies	different levels of government		different levels of government and all segments of civil society	
			Culture	Nature	Culture	Nature
World	36.1	21.5	41.6	42.2	36.9	36.1
Arab States	21.1	15.8	11.8	11.8	17.6	11.8
Africa	10.9	13.0	15.6	16.3	8.9	9.3

Asia and the Pacific	52.4	40.5	39.0	41.0	33.3	30.8
Latin America and the Caribbean	24.2	9.1	9.7	12.5	9.4	12.5
Europe and North America	58.8	23.5	96.1	95.9	88.2	87.8

24. The clear definition of roles and responsibilities in the management system is a reality for the majority of World Heritage properties, with an average number of 93.3% of properties providing positive answers on this topic. In any case, it should be mentioned that the results of the clear definition of roles has deteriorated during the last two cycles of the Periodic Reporting in all the regions, especially for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Arab States.

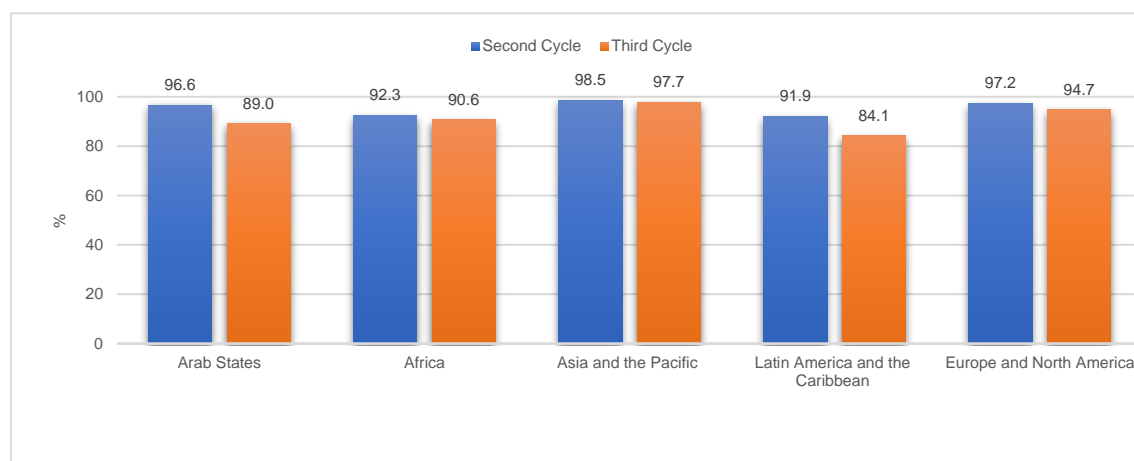


Figure 13: Properties where roles and responsibilities are clearly defined in the management system (Indicator 16)

25. In general, the thematic area of governance in the Periodic Reporting exercise shows that legal frameworks are generally perceived as more positive for the identification than for the protection of States Parties' heritage. Regarding conservation and protection, all regions identified that the legal frameworks are better oriented when dealing with the protection of natural than cultural heritage. During the reporting period, a deterioration of the adequacy of legal frameworks is identified in the results. Mostly all inscribed properties consider that their management systems have adequate identification of roles and responsibilities. Last, coordination of different stakeholders is evaluated in very diverse ways across the regions, not making it possible to create global trends in this aspect.

IV. Synergies

26. The thematic area dedicated to synergies seeks to identify the coordinated work between different international instruments that influence heritage protection. Among the States Parties that have ratified different conventions or have joined programmes in this field, they are consulted which ones maintain communication between the World Heritage national focal points and the focal points of these conventions:
- Clearly the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding on the Intangible Cultural Heritage is the Convention keeping the most significant communication with the World Heritage national focal points, with an average of 82.1%, and with a similar score in all regions.
 - The three instruments that follow on communication level are far from this percentages: the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (61.1% of States Parties reconfirm communication), the 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (60.5%) and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, known as the Ramsar Convention (58.9%).

- On the other part of the table, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and Global Geoparks obtain the lowest percentages. Communication with Global Geoparks is only quite significant in Europe and North America, where it reaches 49% of responses.
 - It should be noted that regions such as the Arab States and Europe and North America have strong communication with the focal points of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.
 - Focal points from the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage maintain important communication with the World Heritage national focal points in regions such as the Arab States and Latin America and the Caribbean, while it is hardly mentioned in Asia and the Pacific.
 - In the differences by region, it is also identified that the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is important for regions such as Asia and the Pacific and Africa.
27. In any case, it should be noted that communication between focal points continues to be an issue that needs to be improved. Looking at data for those World Heritage properties that are also designated under other programmes/conventions, the percentage where there is communication on a regular basis is extremely low. The *Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Program* is the one with the most regular communication reported, reaching just 7.6% of the responses. Following with the World Heritage properties designated also under other programmes and conventions, 29.8% of them have an integrated management plan combining World Heritage and any other designations (Figure 14). This percentage is higher in Africa and Asia and the Pacific than other regions. The provisions of the *2011 Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape* are used as an instrument to set policies or strategies for the protection of their cultural and natural heritage in around 66.8% of the cases. This instrument is best applied in Europe and North America and the Arab States. 68.9% of States Parties are using the *Strategy for Reducing Risks from Disasters at World Heritage properties* to set policies and strategies at national level. This strategy is not so well known in the Arab States, while national policies in Latin America and the Caribbean are clearly considering this tool. Climate change is an issue of concern at World Heritage properties. In this regard, 65.8% of States Parties use the *Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage properties* for their national strategies and policies. This instrument could be more implemented in the Arab States.

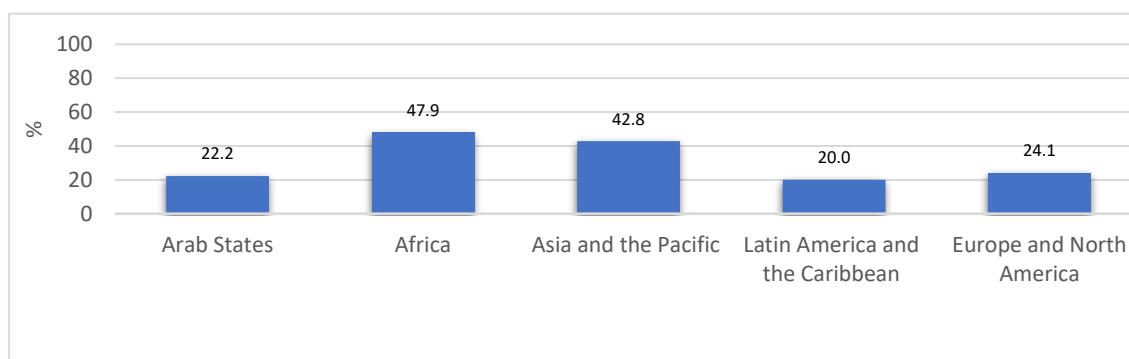


Figure 14: Percentage of properties which have an integrated management plan combining World Heritage and any other designations (Indicator 18)

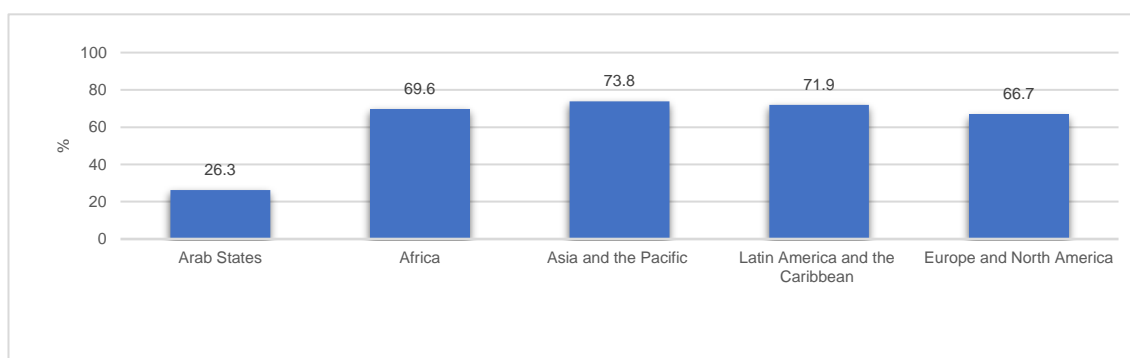


Figure 15: States Parties using the Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage properties to set national policies or strategies for the protection of cultural and natural heritage (Indicator 21)

28. Synergies between the *World Heritage Convention* and other programmes and conventions are promoted, but communication and coordination could be reinforced, especially regarding those properties under other designations in addition to World Heritage. A more fruitful communication with environment-related conventions and programmes is also desirable. Instruments related to *Historic Urban Landscapes*, reducing risks and climate change have different levels of implementation and could still be more effective.

V. Sustainable Development

29. The section dedicated to Sustainable Development introduces different analysis variables. 76.1% of World Heritage site managers around the globe claim to have this action plan for visitors and tourism and their derived economic, socio-cultural and environmental impacts. By regions, Asia and the Pacific have this plan in 90.5% of properties, while in the Arab States, this instrument could be reinforced in more than half of the properties. Percentage of properties where the benefits of tourism are shared with local communities reach 73.3% of the World Heritage properties. It should be noted that there has been a decrease in this percentage during the period analysed: between the Second and Third Cycles, the percentage of properties that report sharing tourism benefits with local communities reduced by 11.2 pp. This drop is significant in Arab States.

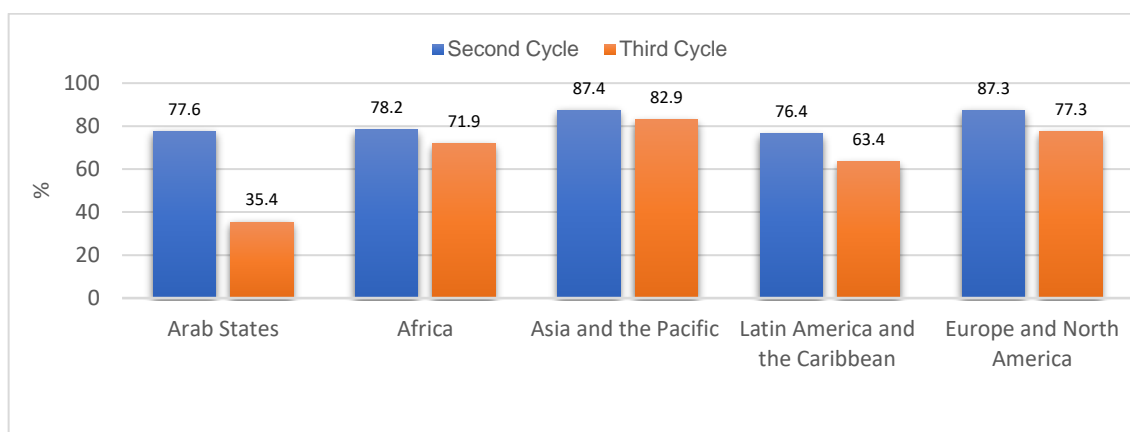


Figure 16: Benefits of tourism shared with local communities by number of properties (Indicator 23)

30. States Parties consider that the inscription of properties on the *World Heritage List* contributes to achieving objectives related to the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, mainly in areas such as: promoting economic investment and quality tourism (89%), protecting biological and cultural diversity and providing ecosystem services and benefits (87.4%) and strengthening capacity-building, innovation and local entrepreneurship (80.1%). On the contrary, inscription of properties is not considered useful in areas related to conflict prevention and resolution. On the same line, States Parties that report effective integration of the conservation and protection of cultural and

natural heritage into their national sustainable development policies do consider that heritage is key for the protection of biological and cultural diversity and ecosystem services (85.9%) and the promotion of quality tourism (85.3%), followed by the enhancement of the quality of life and well-being (84.3%). Conflict related variables are, once again, getting the lowest percentage.

31. Annual public expenditure on the identification, protection and presentation of heritage is mainly allocated from national or federal levels (64.3% for culture and 64.5% for nature) across all the regions.
32. Regarding integrating gender balance into World Heritage management, explicit gender balanced contribution has been just considered in 23.0% of the Tentative List processes and on 57.6% of the Nominations. This gender balanced participation is more significant in Asia and the Pacific, followed by Africa. On the other hand, in Latin America and the Caribbean, Arab States and Europe and North America, this contribution does not reach 50% of the States Parties. Women's participation seems to be higher for nominations than in management systems: there are 69.8% of properties where their management system comprises a formalised framework for women's participation. Regional differences identify that Africa is leading this group (91.7%), followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (86.4%) and Asia and the Pacific (84.1%). In addition, 53.4% of properties report an education and awareness programme targeting women. Once again Africa (77.1%) and Asia and the Pacific (73.4%) lead this effort, while Europe and North America (38.3%) could improve at it.

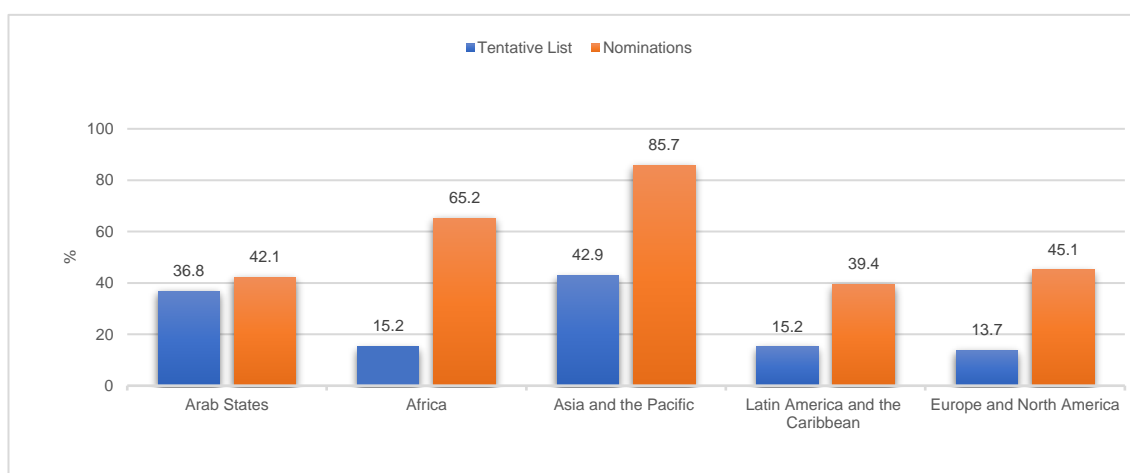


Figure 17: States Parties with an explicit gender balanced contribution and participation (Indicator 28)

33. The involvement of local communities in the entire process of World Heritage is a key objective under the Convention. The increase of this involvement in the last two cycles reconfirms that this approach is being reinforced at national level, where 72.1% of States Parties report including local communities into the Tentative List process and 78% into Nominations. Asia and the Pacific, Africa, and Latin America and Caribbean are the regions where highest involvement is identified. In addition, mostly all properties have a management plan comprising a formalised framework for community participation (97.7%), and this percentage has grown since the previous Cycle.

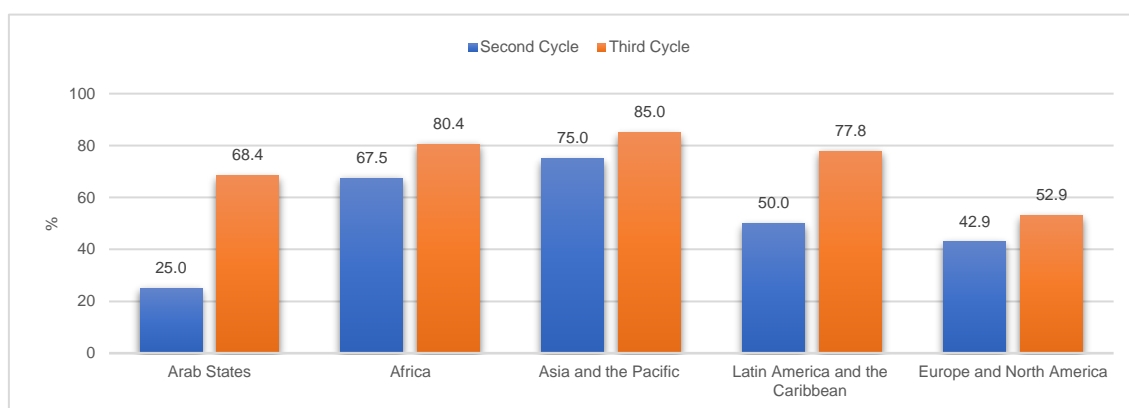


Figure 18: Involvement of local communities in the process of Tentative List (Indicator 31)

34. Faced with this increase in recent years for the integration of local communities, the drop in the effective involvement of Indigenous People stands out: just 37.3% of States Parties report a participation for Indigenous Peoples during the Nomination process, and this percentage dropped by 3.5 pp since the previous Cycle of Periodic Reporting. By regions, Asia and the Pacific (84%,) and Latin America and the Caribbean (66.7%, with a 20.0 pp increase between cycles) report a better inclusion of Indigenous Peoples into the process of Nominations.
35. The knowledge of World Heritage properties' boundaries among authorities and local communities is improving according to the obtained data: 81.8% of site managers from different States Parties consider that the boundaries are clearly known, with an augmentation of 6.4 pp since the previous Cycle. All regions provide a similar picture, except for Latin America and the Caribbean where just 55.9% of the properties do consider that boundaries are well known.
36. Last, but not least, buffer zones are one of the key instruments for the protection of World Heritage properties. Only 55.7% of the World Heritage properties report that authorities and local communities know the existence of this buffer zone. The knowledge has been also rising, with a 12.4 pp increase between the Second and the Third Cycle. Per region, Asia and the Pacific reported the best results on this question (70.1%), while Latin America and the Caribbean site managers just considered that the buffer zone was known in 28.5% of the cases.

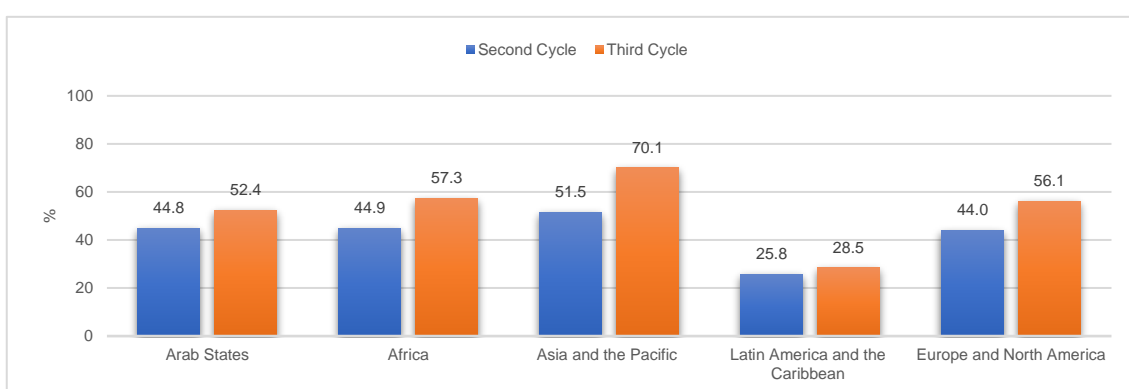


Figure 19: Properties where the buffer zones are clearly known by the authorities and the local communities (Indicator 34)

37. Sustainable development related issues appear to be improving during last years, according to the obtained data. Most of the properties include a visitor and tourism action plan into their management system and they do share tourism benefits with local communities, even though this last variable has been decreasing and should be addressed. Local communities are clearly included into management plans and participating in the process of Tentative List and Nominations. Boundaries and buffer zones knowledge is improving. Gender balanced participation is increasing along the

years but continues to be not so significant into the Tentative List and Nominations processes. A bigger number of management systems comprises a formalised framework for women's participation. Indigenous Peoples' participation dropped during the last years, and it is still very low during the entire process of World Heritage. National and federal governments continue contributing with the highest public expenditure for heritage and national policies benefit from the World Heritage inscription in areas such as protection of biological and cultural diversity, quality tourism, entrepreneurship and quality of life.

VI. Capacity development

38. Capacity-building is considered as one of the core objectives of the *World Heritage Convention*. Nevertheless, the percentage of States Parties having a national capacity-building strategy specifically oriented to World Heritage conservation, protection, presentation and management is just 42.1%. By regions, these national strategies are more common in Asia and the Pacific, while Europe and North America reported that just 1 out of 3 States Parties have this tool in the region. Globally, among these States Parties having a national strategy, the implementation rate raised from the Second to the Third Cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise by 3.7%.

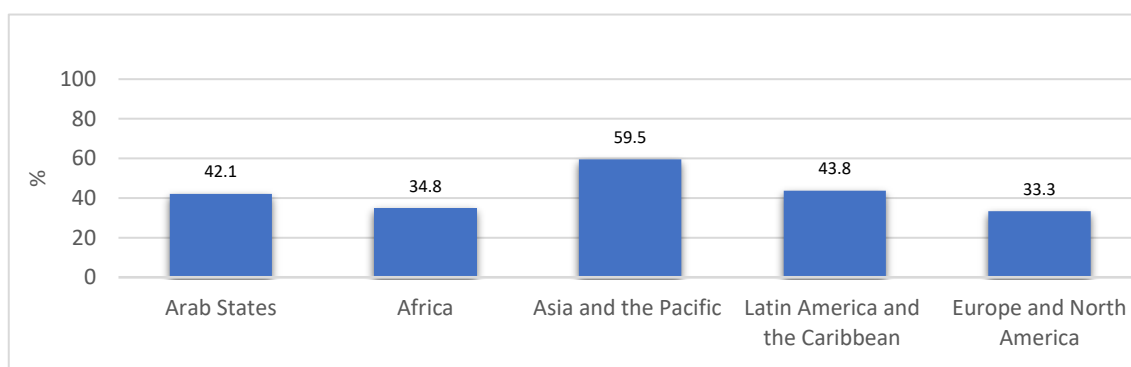


Figure 20: States Parties having a national capacity building-strategy for World Heritage conservation, protection, presentation and management (Indicator 36)

39. Moving from national to property level, 72.7% of the World Heritage properties reported on the existence of a property-specific capacity-building plan that develop local expertise and contribute to the transfer of skills for the conservation and management of the World Heritage property. It must be highlighted that the number of properties with this site-specific plan has decreased during last years in all the regions, with a most significant decrease in Latin America and the Caribbean and Arab States, followed by Africa.

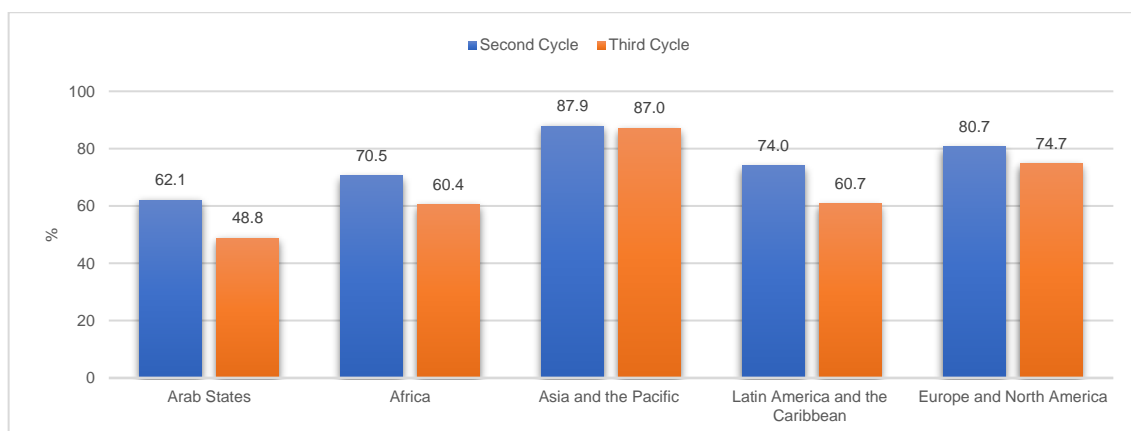


Figure 21: Properties having site-specific capacity building plans or programmes that develop local expertise and that contribute to the transfer of skills for the conservation and management of the World Heritage property (Indicator 35)

40. States Parties identified the top five capacity-building needs for the Periodic Reporting exercise. While there are differences among regions, the following subjects arise around

the globe. First, 'conservation and management of heritage sites' stands as a key priority in all the regions. This capacity-building need ranked first, both for cultural and natural heritage, in the Arab States, Africa and Asia and the Pacific. Secondly, 'risk preparedness and disaster risk management' is among the top five priorities in all the regions, except Asia and the Pacific. In fact, risk preparedness is the first priority for Latin America and the Caribbean, both for cultural and natural heritage. Thirdly, 'sustainable development' is the second identified need in Arab States, and it is mentioned in other regions. The need to reinforce capacities on statutory processes, such as Tentative Lists and Nominations, is present in responses from Arab States, Africa, and Asia and the Pacific. Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe and North America identify 'impact assessment tools (environmental, heritage and social)' as a priority.

41. The perceived benefits by States Parties from the inscription of properties on the World Heritage List are clearly oriented in all regions through the strengthened protection and conservation of heritage (legislative, regulatory, institutional and/or traditional) and the enhanced conservation practices. All the regions also agree on the benefit of enhanced honour/prestige and the consequence of having improved presentation of sites. Increased recognition for tourism and public use is mentioned by all regions. Last, but not least, States Parties of all regions considered that inscriptions are catalyst for wider community appreciation of heritage and enhanced wider community appreciation and participation in heritage processes.
42. Heritage education programmes are implemented by 73.8% of the States Parties to the *Convention*. These programmes could be reinforced in Arab States, which is only implemented in 52.6% of the States Parties.

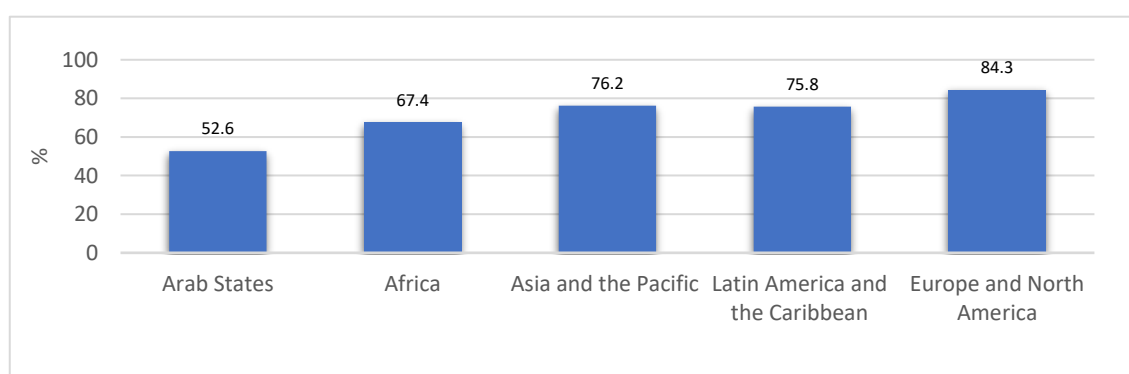


Figure 22: States Parties with heritage education programmes implemented (Indicator 40)

43. Looking into these education programmes at property level, 65.9% of the World Heritage properties have an education and awareness programme, with significant differences by regions: Asia and the Pacific and Europe and North America showed a significant number of properties with this kind of programmes, while in the Arab States, these are just present in less than 1 out of 3 inscribed properties (Figure 23). These education programmes are clearly focused on youth and children, since 92.5% of properties have an education and awareness programme directed towards this younger public in all the regions. Participation in the World Heritage in Young Hands programme is not very significant and has been decreasing lately, especially in Europe and North America and Asia and the Pacific. The overall participation is situated at 31.4%.

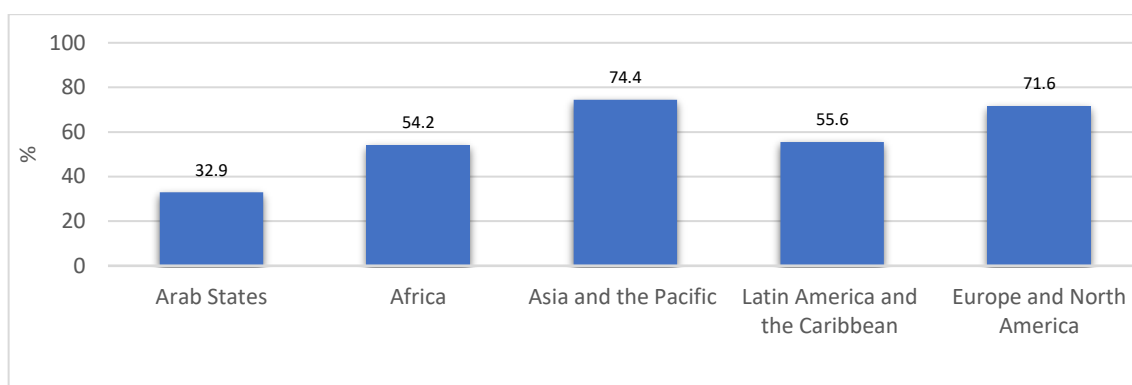


Figure 23: Properties with an education and awareness programme (Indicator 42)

44. Following the obtained results, capacity-building plans and education programmes are important for the World Heritage properties, but improvement could be done regarding the lack of a specific World Heritage oriented national capacity-building strategy in around 58% of States Parties. The number of properties with a property level capacity-building plan has decreased during last years in all the regions and it currently at 72.7% of the properties. Conservation and management of heritage properties are clearly identified capacity-building need. Education and awareness programmes are present in 65.9% of properties and are mainly addressed to youth and children.