

Submission Form

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Recognizing and rewarding best practice in management of World Heritage properties

State Party: Mauritius

Title proposed World Heritage property: Le Morne Cultural Landscape

Brief description of the property: The Le Morne Cultural Landscape, situated in the southwest of Mauritius, comprises a rugged mountain, Le Morne Brabant, that juts into the Indian Ocean. The dramatic form of the mountain and its isolated, wooded and almost inaccessible cliffs constitute an impressive natural monument which was used as a fortress and shelter by runaway slaves and maroons through the 18th and early years of the 19th centuries. The Le Morne Cultural Landscape is an exceptional testimony to maroonage and symbolizes the heroic resistance to slavery. It represents their impact- slaves' fight for freedom, their suffering and their sacrifice- which existed in many places around the World, but which was demonstrated so effectively on Le Morne mountain; they have relevance beyond its geographical location, to the countries from which the slaves came, in particular, the African mainland, Madagascar, India, China and Southeast Asia. Indeed, Mauritius occupied a strategic position in the eastern slave trade and came to be known as the "Maroon Republic" because of the large number of escaped slaves who lived on Le Morne mountain.

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

	Topics for demonstrating best management practice:	Please indicate in this column why your World Heritage property is a best practice in relation to the topic:
<p>1.</p>	<p>Conservation:</p> <p><i>What innovative management practices or strategies are being applied in order to ensure the conservation of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property (e.g. better resource management, restoration and rehabilitation, addressing various man-made or natural threats and challenges, etc.)?</i></p>	<p>A. <u>Protection of the landscape:</u></p> <p>To preserve the attributes and Outstanding Universal Value of the Le Morne Cultural Landscape (LMCL), several management/legislative tools/instruments have been developed and are being used so as to monitor and control land use and development within the World Heritage Property, its Buffer Zone as well as within its immediate vicinity.</p> <p>1. <i>Legal framework and policies:</i></p> <p>In 2004, Government established the Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund through the Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund Act 2004. The objective of this statutory body is to preserve the physical environmental and ecological aspects of Le Morne and to promote its historical and cultural heritage. A series of supportive legislation and policies is already in place to protect this heritage landscape and to monitor activities related to it.</p> <p>2. <i>Supportive Legislation:</i></p> <p>Besides the Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund Act 2004, other Acts that provide support to protect the Le Morne Cultural Landscape are listed below:</p> <p>1) The National Heritage Fund Act 2003;</p>

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	<p>2) The Planning and Development Act 2004;</p> <p>3) The Environment Protection Act 2002;</p> <p>4) Forests and Reserves Act 1983;</p> <p>5) Wildlife and National Parks Act 2004;</p> <p>6) The Beach Authority Act 2002 and</p> <p>7) Fisheries and Marine Resources Act 1998</p> <p>The legal framework is further enhanced by the following subsidiary policies:</p> <p>1) The Outline Planning Scheme for the Black River District Council Area 2006;</p> <p>2) Town and Country Planning Board: Planning Guidelines for the Coastal Zone 2004 which include Hotels and Integrated Resorts and Residential Coastal Development.</p> <p>3. Planning Policy Guidance 2- Le Morne Cultural Landscape (PPG2):</p> <p>Besides the general legal framework available to protect the Le Morne Cultural Landscape (LMCL), a specific and dedicated legal tool was developed to provide further adequate protection and preservation of the LMCL.</p>

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	<p>The Planning Policy Guidance 2 is a legal document that came in force in September 2007 for the management and protection of the Le Morne Cultural Landscape. Its purpose is to direct and control development in the Core Zone and Buffer Zone of the declared World Heritage Site in order to protect and sustain its Outstanding Universal Value. It provides a set of performance criteria and design standards that are applicable to supportive development for use by individual site owners, developers, stakeholders and the public in general and for assisting the governmental and local authorities when processing development applications. It aims to promote sustainable and equitable development that will protect and enhance the Authenticity and Integrity of Le Morne Cultural Landscape in line with the Operational Guidelines of UNESCO World Heritage Convention and the Le Morne Cultural Landscape Management Plan.</p> <p>4. Critical Viewpoints Analysis (CVA):</p> <p>As emphasized by the ICOMOS in its evaluation of the Nomination Dossier, it was important to consider the visual dimension of the Mountain which lies at the core of the overall Le Morne Cultural Landscape. Thus, while approaching the LMCL, the view, along as well as outside its boundaries, has to be protected and preserved to avoid negative visual impact. The State Party and the Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund commissioned three experts, one local and two foreign, who are intimately familiar with the site and surrounding areas to perform a CVA to ensure that the critical views and lines of sight are, in fact, enjoying the level of protection worthy of the site and which will meet stringent requirements of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Convention. A minimum number of nine critical viewpoints have been established during this analysis which</p>

Topics for demonstrating best management practice:	Please indicate in this column why your World Heritage property is a best practice in relation to the topic:
	<p>should not be impacted upon by any inappropriate development that will cause disfigurement of the landscape and diminishment or loss of resource value.</p> <p>5. Cultural Landscape Mapping (CLM)</p> <p>This document captures the historical, heritage and cultural features of the landscape and enables people to see the exact location where events took place and how they relate to each other. It also seeks to ensure that the cultural and heritage values of the inhabitants of Le Morne and the surrounding villages around the LMCL are respected, understood and fully considered in future planning and management.</p> <p>6. Spatial Development Framework (SDF)</p> <p>This document which is nearing finalization will provide more detailed guidance to support the implementation of the Planning Policy Guidance 2 - Le Morne Cultural Landscape. It will indicate what kind of development can and should happen on the landscape while considering at the same time the environmental and cultural assets of the World Heritage Site. It will also address the issue of carrying capacity for different zones of the LMCL as defined in the PPG 2- Le Morne Cultural Landscape.</p> <p><u>B. Conservation of Biodiversity:</u></p> <p>The summit of Le Morne mountain is very rich in biodiversity. It has a quite rich flora with some 73 of the 311 species of indigenous plants of Mauritius, with at least two endemics to the</p>

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	<p>mountain. However, invasive alien species are recognized as the major agents contributing to the continuing declines and extinction of the native plant population. The best strategy for long term protection is the preservation of natural communities and population in the wild. The overall objective is to conserve and rehabilitate Le Morne as far as possible while at the same time making it accessible and creating local economic development opportunities as highlighted in the Management Plan. Since 2003, the Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund has initiated a joint project with the Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security, National Parks and Conservation Service and the Forestry Service to organise expeditions on the summit of Le Morne mountain to fulfil this objective. Three to four expeditions are undertaken yearly and the set targets have been achieved as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Rehabilitation of about 1.5 ha of degraded native forest on the summit. b) Weeding of 1 ha of sensitive biodiversity rich area; c) Opening of an access track of a length of 2.5 km and of 1m width leading to maroon slave caves; d) Identification and search of unrecorded species; e) GPS positioning of sensitive areas; f) Observation of vegetation status in the course of the prevailing drought; and

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		g) Collection of seeds, seedlings and cuttings of rare and endangered plants under an ex-situ conservation program.
2.	<p>Local People:</p> <p><i>What exemplary practices are you using in order to effectively address the needs of local stakeholders within the management system for the property, and enable their full and active participation?</i></p>	<p>1. Management Plan:</p> <p>Several consultations were organised with all stakeholders within the Le Morne Cultural Landscape (local residents, land owners, hotel operators and NGOs of Le Morne) and also others concerned either directly or indirectly with the LMCL (Socio-cultural organisations and Creole organisations across the country which are linked somehow with the history of slavery) for the preparation of the Management Plan of the LMCL. All useful comments and suggestions pertaining to the LMCL collected during the meetings have been integrated in the current version of the Management Plan - April 2008. To ensure the widest dissemination, especially at the grass root level and amongst the local community, the Management Plan was translated from English (official language) to Creole, the local mother (national language) spoken by the Mauritian community at large. The Management plan is a living document that will be updated every five years through a continuous participative process so as to allow the Trust Fund to achieve its objective of maintaining a sound and sustainable management of the Le Morne Cultural Landscape.</p>

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	<p>2. Spatial Development Framework (SDF):</p> <p>This document which is nearing finalization will provide more detailed guidance to support the implementation of the Planning Policy Guidance 2 - Le Morne Cultural Landscape. It will indicate what kind of development can and should happen on the landscape while considering at the same time the environmental and cultural assets of the World Heritage Site. It will also address the issue of carrying capacity for different zones of the LMCL as defined in the PPG 2- Le Morne Cultural Landscape</p> <p>3. Cultural Landscape Mapping (CLM):</p> <p>This document captures the historical, heritage and cultural features of the landscape and enables people to see the exact location where events took place and how they relate to each other. It also seeks to ensure that the cultural and heritage values of the inhabitants of Le Morne and the surrounding villages around the LMCL are respected, understood and fully considered in future planning and management.</p> <p>This project consisted of identifying and mapping all historical, cultural and heritage elements found within the LMCL. For its preparation, it was important to carry out site visits with the active participation of elderly people from Le Morne Village who had lived directly on the landscape and those who have profound knowledge of the stories and oral traditions that had been passed on to them by their ancestors. It was also important to understand what symbol Le Morne represents in the collective memory of the local population and their cultural attachment</p>

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	<p>with the features found within the landscape.</p> <p>4. Consultative Forum (CF):</p> <p>The CF is a platform that ensures direct formal contact and aims at creating opportunities for interaction between the Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund (LMHTF) and the stakeholders. While the LMHTF is the statutory body responsible for the management of the landscape, the Consultative Forum is expected to provide constructive and useful input in line with the Vision and Mission of the Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund. The Consultative Forum comprises representatives of the local community, Le Morne Village, economic operators, socio-cultural groups across the country and members of the general public who adhere to the Vision and Mission of the Le Morne Cultural Landscape Management Plan. The Forum is chaired by the Chairperson of the LMHTF. Furthermore, the Consultative Forum also considers written views and comments from any person or organization that it deems useful for the advancement of the World Heritage Property.</p> <p>5. Local Economic Development Plan (LED Plan):</p> <p>Its purpose is to build up the economic capacity of the local community, especially the inhabitants of Le Morne so as to improve their economic future and quality of life. It is a process by which the public, business and non governmental sector partners work collectively to create better conditions for generation of employment and economic growth. Making the LED require a</p>

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		<p>collective vision formulated by the local community through its active participation. Community involvement came by way of public meetings and visioning exercises held with Community-Based Associations. The LED planning process resulted in the production of a situational analysis of the Le Morne Cultural Landscape, which is based on socio-economic interviews with different age groups of the local inhabitants of Le Morne, private land owners and hotel operators within the landscape, NGOs and the Black River District Council.</p>
3.	<p>Legal framework:</p> <p><i>What special measures have you taken to ensure that the legal framework for the World Heritage site is effective in maintaining the OUV of the property?</i></p>	<p>Monitoring and enforcement are required for the legal framework to be effective</p> <p>To ensure that the legal framework for the World Heritage Site is effective and is being adhered to, officers of the Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund undertake daily site visits around the landscape and report about its state of conservation. Regarding development projects, joint monitoring exercises are carried out by different related government institutions and authorities on a three-months basis to ensure that any development/project within the landscape and its immediate vicinity is in line with the existing rules and regulations, thus maintaining the attributes and Outstanding Universal Value of the property.</p> <p>Additional measures are being taken in specific areas to ensure the preservation and protection of the WHP. For example, the Ministry of Tourism and Leisure has consulted the LMHTF to produce the rules that will regulate Kite surf activity in the lagoon of the World Heritage Property.</p>

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		<p>The Management Plan for the Le Morne Cultural Landscape will be updated every five years.</p>
4.	<p>Boundaries:</p> <p><i>What innovative ways of dealing with the boundaries of the property, including for management of the buffer zone do you have in place, to effectively to manage the site and protect its OUV?</i></p>	<p>A complete survey of the boundary lines of the Core Zone and Buffer Zone of the land component of the LMCL has been effected. The GPS coordinates of each corner/turning points on these boundary lines have been recorded and plotted.</p> <p>The corner points lying on the land boundaries of the Core Zone and Buffer Zone are being demarcated physically on the ground by specific stone landmarks.</p> <p>Informative panels have also been installed at four of the major geographical points of the boundaries.</p> <p>Maps showing the boundaries and corner/turning points and listing the GPS coordinates of all these points are available at all governmental institutions and local authorities concerned for consultation and use by any stakeholder. The maps are provided to the stakeholders in both hard and soft copies, upon request.</p>

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		<p>Critical Viewpoints Analysis:</p> <p>As emphasized by the ICOMOS in its evaluation of the Nomination Dossier, it was important to consider the visual dimension of the Mountain which lies at the core of the overall Le Morne Cultural Landscape. Thus, while approaching the LMCL, the view, along as well as outside its boundaries, has to be protected and preserved to avoid negative visual impact. The State Party and the Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund commissioned three experts, one local and two foreign, who are intimately familiar with the site and surrounding areas to perform a CVA to ensure that the critical views and lines of sight are, in fact, enjoying the level of protection worthy of the site and which will meet stringent requirements of ICOMOS and the World Heritage Convention. A minimum number of nine critical viewpoints have been established during this analysis which should not be impacted upon by any inappropriate development that will cause disfigurement of the landscape and diminishment or loss of resource value.</p>
5.	<p>Sustainable finance:</p> <p><i>What effective strategies have you developed and implemented to assure adequate and sustainable financial resources for implementing the management measures required to maintain the site's OUV?</i></p>	<p>Annual grant:</p> <p>As per government policy, the parastatals operating under the aegis of the ministry are provided with an annual grant for their recurrent expenditure. The parastatals are also provided with another grant for capital expenditure where applicable; such is the case for the Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund and the Apravasi Ghat Trust Fund which manage the two World Heritage Properties of Mauritius, i.e. the Le Morne Cultural Landscape and the</p>

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	<p>Apravasi Ghat.</p> <p>Thus, since its creation in 2004, the Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund has been provided with annual grants by the government. The recurrent budget is used for payment of salaries to staff, office and administrative expenses, general expenditure and activities of the Trust Fund. The capital budget is used for conservation and maintenance of the site, carrying out research works and implementation of projects.</p> <p>Potential revenue sources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, visitors move around the landscape but cannot access the mountain proper. The LMHTF is in the process of developing trails with entrance gates that will allow control of visitors to the mountain. Following the opening of these trails an entrance fee will be charged to visitors. • A Museum/Interpretation Centre will be put up at an appropriate location within the landscape in the near future. Items such as souvenirs, handcrafted products from the local people and publications pertaining to Le Morne Cultural Landscape and Slavery will be put on sale at the Interpretation Centre. <p>The generation of such revenue will provide additional funding to the LMHTF, thereby increasing the sustainability of the organisation.</p>

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<p>6. Staffing training and development:</p> <p><i>What approaches and strategies have you developed and implemented to assure that the human resources are adequate to manage the World Heritage property?</i></p>	<p>At the creation of the LMHTF, a minimal number of staff was recruited. Over the years additional staffs have been recruited to cover both the administrative and technical fields. Besides the Director, the staff of the LMHTF comprises an Accounts Officer, one Clerk/Word Processing Operator, one Clerical Assistant and one Office Attendant on the administrative side. The technical side comprises one Site Officer, one Research Officer, one Conservation Officer, four Heritage Guides and two Handy Workers.</p> <p>Adequate equipments are provided to the staffs for them to perform their duties and deliver effectively. Personal Computers, laptops, mobile phones, binoculars, photo and video cameras are at the disposal of staffs for office work, site visits/inspections and coverage/records of events/functions and for research work.</p> <p>Le Morne Village did not have access to internet. With the opening of the office of the LMHTF in the village in 2007, the Ministry of Arts and Culture and the Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund made arrangements for internet access to be extended thereto. Bicycles and a 4x4 vehicle are used for the daily site visits around the landscape. Further, all staff are provided with uniforms and protective equipments such as shoes, raincoats and hats.</p> <p>The new recruits of the LMHTF are all provided with an induction training when they joined the organisation. This comprises an in-house training and visits to other relevant institutions, such</p>

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	<p>as the National Archives, National Heritage Fund, Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund and Mauritius Museum Councils for training in the historical, cultural and heritage fields. Working sessions are also held with these institutions.</p> <p>The same exercise is carried out with the Ministry of Housing and Lands for training in the fields of survey and planning and with the Forestry Service and the National Parks and Conservation Service for training in the field of biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>In the preparation of the Cultural Landscape Mapping, the staff participated directly in the field work and surveys and the actual drawing up of the first map indicating the features/elements identified during the exercise under the supervision of the consultant.</p> <p>A personalised training scheme is devised for each staff according to his post, qualifications, job prospect and benefits to the individual as well as the organisation. The costs are borne by the LMHTF.</p> <p>Thus, the Site Officer who joined the LMHTF with only a secondary qualification (Higher School Certificate - HSC) has been fully sponsored to read for the BA (Hons) in Heritage Studies at the University of Mauritius, while continuing to work at the LMHTF. Upon his graduation in August 2012, he will be promoted to the post of Site Manager.</p> <p>The Clerical Assistant and Office Attendant have also been fully sponsored to upgrade their</p>

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	<p>academic qualifications, so as to obtain the Higher School Certificate and School Certificate respectively, so that they may be confirmed in their posts.</p> <p>When recruiting staff for the LMHTF, priority of consideration is given to the local community, especially from the Le Morne Village and the immediate vicinity of the LMCL. As at date, five out of fifteen staff of the LMHTF reside in Le Morne Village. This policy of the LMHTF aims at empowering the local community. It was with this objective and perspective that the Site Officer who will soon become the Site Manager was recruited from amongst residents of the Le Morne Village.</p> <p>The recruitment of staff from within the local community, even if they do not possess the full profile for the job, may encourage and motivate the community to support and even actively engage in the management and protection of the World Heritage Site. This implies, of course, that the staff should be immediately provided with appropriate training to be able to perform effectively.</p> <p>Provision has been made for the recruitment of more staff in the future, prior to the opening of the trails to access the mountain and the Museum/Interpretation Centre.</p>
7. Sustainable development: <i>What are the effective mechanisms in place to ensure that resource use</i>	

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<p><i>permitted in and around the World Heritage site is sustainable and does not impact negatively on OUV?</i></p>	<p>A Monitoring Committee comprising the Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund and all governmental and local institutions concerned (Ministry of Housing and Lands, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agro Industry, Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Tourism, National Heritage Fund, Black River District Council, Beach Authority) and chaired by the Focal Point for Culture and Heritage (Ministry of Arts and Culture) examines and approves, amends or rejects projects proposed within or around the World Heritage Site. Whenever necessary, the committee co-opts other institutions such as Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Ministry of Public Utilities and Road Development Authority. Moreover, if the need arises, the Committee has recourse to conversant consultants, even from overseas – Dr. Odendaal and Prof. K. Bakker.</p> <p>To ensure the sustainability of land, which is the principal resource in and around the World Heritage Site, the LMHTF and the Monitoring Committee utilise the following tools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPG 2 –Le Morne Cultural Landscape • Critical Viewpoints Analysis • Cultural Landscape Mapping • Spatial Development Framework <p>These tools have been described extensively in previous sections of the submission form.</p> <p>Furthermore, in order to ensure sustainability and to prevent negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value, besides development projects, any activity to be carried out within</p>

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		<p>the landscape has to be cleared by the Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund and the National Heritage Fund as per provisions contained in the Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund Act and National Heritage Fund Act respectively, e.g. kite surfing, sports competitions, use of beach, shooting of films, organisation of events/functions/public gatherings,...</p> <p>Promoters of projects and organisers of activities within the LMCL are now aware that the views and comments of the LMHTF are required before any permit or clearance may be issued.</p>
8.	<p>Education and interpretation programmes:</p> <p><i>How do the education, interpretation and awareness programmes you have developed and implemented significantly enhance the understanding of OUV of the site among stakeholders?</i></p>	<p>The History of Slavery and of the Le Morne Cultural Landscape form part of the education programme at primary and secondary levels. Passages on these elements have been incorporated in text books that are utilised by these students. The same applies for the History of Indentured and the other World Heritage Site – Apravasi Ghat.</p> <p>The increasing importance of heritage in Mauritius has prompted the University of Mauritius to introduce a new specialised course in its programme of studies, namely BA (Hons) Heritage Studies since 2009. The students of this course have carried out practical works and research on the Le Morne Cultural Landscape as well as the Apravasi Ghat.</p> <p>In the context of the preparation of the Nomination Dossier of the Le Morne Cultural Landscape, research on Oral History and Traditions relating to slavery and Le Morne was carried out. Subsequently, a second phase was undertaken and the outcome of both works was published</p>

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	<p>in 2010.</p> <p>In 2007, the LMHTF initiated another research project in the field of archaeology. To have a better understanding of maroon settlement at Le Morne, an archaeological reconnaissance survey was undertaken within the LMCL on the low lying grounds. In 2009, another reconnaissance survey was carried out at the summit of Le Morne Brabant mountain. In 2009, a geophysical survey was carried out at the old cemetery of Le Morne following which archaeological excavation works were undertaken in July 2010. Analysis of human skeletons and artefacts recovered are underway in order to determine the origins and way of living of the slave population at Le Morne.</p> <p>The participation of children and youngsters of Le Morne and students from the University of Mauritius were enlisted in these archaeological campaigns, thereby enhancing the understanding of the Outstanding Universal Value of the LMCL.</p> <p>In 2007, 2008 and 2010, the LMHTF has produced and issued informative brochures on the LMCL. In 2007, the LMHTF also developed a series of six large panels covering the different facets of the LMCL.</p> <p>The brochures and panels are used in roving exhibitions, especially in educational institutions to sensitise the population on heritage in general and the LMCL in particular. Side activities such</p>

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	<p>as talks, debates and quiz are also organised.</p> <p>The documents produced by the LMHTF are in the official language, i.e. English. However, in order to reach the largest possible audience, the LMHTF has translated a series of documents in Creole – the mother tongue and most widely spoken (national) language in the country and French, namely the Management Plan and Planning Policy Guidance 2 – LMCL in Creole; oral history research projects in French and the brochures in Creole and French.</p> <p>In December 2011, the Ministry of Arts and Culture organised, with the collaboration and assistance of the UNESCO Cluster Office of Dar-es-Salaam and the Ecole du Patrimoine Africain, a one week training programme on the management of World Heritage Sites for the managers of LMCL and Apravasi Ghat and the officials of the different governmental and local institutions also involved in the management of World Heritage Properties.</p> <p>Awareness and sensitization campaigns targeting and involving the young generation especially, are organised to ensure perpetuity of the World Heritage Site. Guided group tours with oral presentation of the landscape are organised for school students; brochures are also handed over to them. Publications of the LMHTF are given to the teachers accompanying the students.</p> <p>In 2011, to mark the third anniversary of the inscription of LMCL on the World Heritage List, a national competition was organised on the production of models of the LMCL. All the models</p>

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	will be displayed in a roving exhibition around the country.
<p>9. Tourism and interpretation:</p> <p><i>What innovative plans have you designed and successfully implemented to ensure that visitor management does not negatively impact on the maintenance of the property's OUV?</i></p>	<p>A visitor code of conduct has been designed by the LMHTF for the LMCL to ensure that visitors are made aware of the need to respect the authenticity and integrity of the World Heritage Site. Prior to start visiting the site and in order to increase visitor satisfaction and experience, visitors are provided with information related to their visit such as the itinerary, different trails, their degree of difficulty, the duration and the distance as well as the different features to be discovered as per the Cultural Landscape Mapping.</p> <p>To ensure preservation and protection of the landscape, especially the International Slave Route Monument, the latter is opened during office hours on weekdays and weekends and is closed on Mondays for maintenance purposes.</p> <p>In the wake of the inscription of the LMCL on the World Heritage List, since 2008, the annual commemoration of the Abolition of Slavery on the 1st of February is being held at the LMCL instead of Pointe Canon, Mahebourg, thus bringing a huge crowd to the World Heritage Property. In order to curtail negative impact on the site, the program of activity comprising an official ceremony and a cultural programme has been shortened since 2011. The number of buses provided to the public to attend the function has been reduced. These measures have resulted in ensuring a good flow of traffic and reduction of pollution.</p>
Additional comments:	

Brief description/ summary of the best practice, including a statement on how it can be useful for other sites (max.600 words)

Protection of a World Heritage Site is generally provided through a legislative framework at the national, regional and/or local levels. However, it has been found that development of an additional and specific legal instrument (PPG 2 –Le Morne Cultural Landscape) ensures closest protection and preservation of the World Heritage Site.

Accompanying tools (Critical Viewpoints Analysis, Cultural Landscape Mapping and Spatial Development Framework) facilitate the task of the institutions and authorities in their daily assessment and monitoring of the World Heritage Site and its Buffer Zone. However, the tools may vary from site to site, depending on their environment and requirements.

Monitoring is best ensured through joint continuous coordination, involving the organisation responsible for the management of the World Heritage Site together with all relevant institutions/authorities at the national, regional and local levels.

The staff of the organisation managing the World Heritage Property should be provided with appropriate training when they join the organisation. Thereafter, a training programme should be devised to match the needs of the staff individually and the organisation as an entity. This will allow the staff to be adequately equipped to perform and thus ensure the maintenance of the attributes of the World Heritage Property.

The recruitment of staff from within the local community, even if they do not possess the full profile required for the job, may encourage and motivate the community to support and even actively engage in the management and protection of the World Heritage Site. This implies of course that the staff should be immediately provided with appropriate training to be able to perform effectively. Such strategy results in

empowerment of the local community.

Awareness and sensitization campaigns targeting and involving the young generation specially ensure perpetuity of the World Heritage site.

All those practices mentioned could be useful to other sites as well through developing the same strategies and processes while at the same time adapting them to their actual environment. They could provide ways and means to manage effectively World Heritage Sites and to control and guide development on such sites. Adopting these strategies will result in increased partnership and involvement from stakeholders for the management and preservation of World Heritage Sites.

(361 words)

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

The photos are heavy and will be sent separately.