

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: Republic of Bulgaria

Title proposed World Heritage property: Boyana Church

Brief description of the property: [you may use the Brief description provided through <http://whc.unesco.org>]

The Boyana Church is an architectural complex. It consists of three building stages: the first part – the 11th century; the second part – the middle of the 13th century and the last one – the middle of the 19th century. The first layer of murals in the oldest part of the Church dates from the 12th century. The second part of the Church was built in the middle of the 13th century with the funds of the ruler of the Sredets District (today's Sofia Region) Sebastocrator Kaloyan and his wife Desislava and murals were laid in the two parts. The year of painting murals was 1259. Inscriptions with the names of painters – Vasilie and Dimitar – were revealed during restoration works. The third part of the church was built with donations of the local population in 1845. There are separate images and compositions from other periods in the Church – from the 14th, 17th and 19th centuries. The exceptional renown of the Church is due to the murals of great merit from 1259 which reproduce realistic, expressive images of people, details of everyday life and architectural elements from the above – mentioned periods.

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:
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<p>Topics for demonstrating best management practice:</p>	<p>Please indicate in this column why your World Heritage property is a best practice in relation to the topic:</p>
<p>1. 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>Teams lead by Lozinka Koynova – Arnaudova did the restoration of the murals from 1976 till 1998. The cement pastes and plasters, varnish coatings on the murals and the earlier attempted stylistic reconstruction in oils as well as the colorful reintegration in the second part were removed. The mural fragments and scenes were stratified as well. From 2006 till 2008 a team consisting of professor Grigory Grigorov (a member of the Managing Committee of the National Council for Preservation of the Cultural Monuments, a member of the Section “Restoration” of the Union of the Bulgarian Artists, a member of the Association of the Restorers in Bulgaria) and Vladimir Tsvetkov did a large – scale complete restoration of the mural decoration of the Church. They applied unique restoration methods consisting of as follows:</p> <p>The main problems in the restoration of the wall-paintings in the Boyana church result from previous interventions executed during the first half of the 20c. The treatments performed by the specialists, who have worked at that time, are correct and still applied nowadays, but the employed materials are estimated as counter-indicative from a contemporary point of view.</p> <p>One of these interventions is the introduction of cement as a consolidating agent for the mural structure; in some areas it has formed an extra layer between two of the painting periods. The cement’s properties are inappropriate and even harmful for the monumental paintings (powerful salts-generating factor, high dead weight and strong hygroscopic capacity). During the restoration treatment of the Boyana church murals, which was carried out by prof. Grigory Grigorov and Vladimir Tsvetkov in the period 2006 – 2008, a decision was taken to remove the cement from several areas by means of stratification. Stratification is one of the most complicated restoration techniques, it is considered risky and its application provides ground for much</p>

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	<p>discussion. In view of the objective condition of the murals this kind of intervention was estimated to be the most adequate to the particular case. During the period June – November 2006 4 fragments were treated in the southern niche of the nave – 3 from the scene “The Visit of the Virgin” and 1 from the scene “The Nativity of Christ” (both dated 1259). After the cement had been removed three of the detached fragments of the upper painting period were put back on the wall, while the fourth one was transferred to a new support. Under it a face had been discovered – this is the sole until now preserved image of the chronologically second paint layer in the church, dated about 12c. The stratification activity was successfully accomplished and decreased the risks for the future preservation of the murals.</p> <p>The newly discovered image of the lower painting period – the face of the Virgin from the scene “The Annunciation” – is another reason for the growing interest in the wall-paintings of the Boyana church. Thus the stratification work contributed to the aesthetic wealth of the murals and opened a field for new art-historical research and popularization, but what is more – it provided a good decision to a purely practical aspect of the monumental decoration’s conservation.</p> <p>Mural fragments and scenes were transferred to and exhibited in the last part of the Church during the restoration works. Thus the visitors are able to take a first – hand look at different layers of murals, practice having no analogy in Bulgaria. At this stage the conservation and restoration activities were done without budget funds. The funds were raised by means of a donation campaign, organized by the National Museum of History and 165 thousand Bulgarian Leva for restoration of the murals in the Boyana Church were collected from private persons and companies. The conservation and restoration work of the architecture and the murals of the Church completed at the end of 2008. The last stage revealed unknown details of murals, new moments in the history of the Church and its painting as well as returned considerably their original, initial aspect.</p>

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2.	Local People: <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>The site is a public state property of the Ministry of Culture.</p>
3.	Legal framework: <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>The management of the site is in conformity with the requirements of the Law for the Cultural Heritage from 2009.</p>

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<p>4. 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>The boundaries of the protective zone of the Monument of World Importance “The Boyana Church” are specified by the Order No. VI – 30 / 10.01.1986 of the Committee for Culture and of the Ministry for Construction and Settlement System. Instructions for preservation and protection of the World Monument of Culture “The Boyana Church” and its protective zone were regulated to the Order in 1989. Zones “A”, “B” and “B” with different conditions of use are differentiated on the above territory. The necessity of differential approach to the design and construction activities on the territory of the boundaries of the monument of culture and its protective zone necessitates three zones with different mode to be differentiated – one – within the boundaries of the Monument and two – in the protective zone. The zone A includes the territory within the boundaries of the Monument of Culture “The Boyana Church”. The zone B covers a part of the territory of the protective zone. The zone B includes the rest of the territory of the protective zone. The following instructions are observed for the preservation of the World Monument of Culture “The Boyana Church” and during construction works in the above – determined protective zone: The archaeological investigations are performed under a strictly established usage for all zones. Mode of zone A (the Monument of Culture and its adjoining territory) – The research and the design activities for the Church, the realization of the conservation and restoration works of the murals as well as the execution of the architectural, construction and urbanizing activities are done under a strictly established usage. The National Institute for Immovable Cultural Heritage (NIICH) keeps a sharp eye on the condition of the murals and architectural substance as well as on the temperature and humidity conditions in the Church. The Institute examines closely the air pollution and micro – biological processes in the immediate proximity of the Monument and inside it as well. Mode of zone “B” and zone “B” (protective zone) – The visas for investigation, assignments for design and projects in a preliminary and working stages for all urbanization and architectural developments are approved by the Chief Architect of Sofia and are conformed with the National Institute for</p>

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	<p>Immovable Cultural Heritage (NIICH). The National Institute for Immovable Cultural Heritage (NIICH) submits to the designers in written form the requirements and restrictions which have to be taken into consideration during the design preparation. The competent authorities of the “Vitosha” District watch for the strict realization of the approved projects during implementation of the construction activity. Mode of the zone “Б” – Binding archaeological drillings have to be done before a visa to be issued for investigation and design activities.</p> <p>The National Museum of History and its branch the Boyana Church take charge of managing, scientifically presentation in the presence of visitors and daily observations of the Church in accordance with an approved regulations. The activity and the visits to the Church are regulated by regulations approved by the Director of the National Museum of History. The authorities for state control and for protection of the immovable monuments of culture supervise the correct use, management and presentation of the Boyana Church as well as the observation of the normative acts for preservation of the immovable monuments of culture. The National Museum of History whose branch is the Church and Administration “Architecture” of the Metropolitan Municipality watch the observation of the recommendations and the restrictive mode strictly. Hence the site is protected effectively.</p>

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<p>5. 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>Budgetary financing, donation campaigns in 2007 and 2008 for conservation and restoration of the murals and in 2010 on the occasion of celebration of 750 years from painting of the Church. Work on preparation of local and European projects and on projects realized through the UNESCO: 1) In 2006 – Project for air – conditioning of the Bulgarian National Revival part of the Boyana Church with the aid of UNESCO – 25 thousand US Dollars – financing for new equipment; 2) In 2010 – 2011 – Project “750 Years from Painting of the Boyana Church – Monument entered on the List of the World Cultural Heritage of UNESCO” – granted funds according to the Joining Programme for Participation 2010 – 2011 – 25 900 US Dollars (for publishing a symposium with papers from the International Conference “The Boyana Church between the East and the West in the Art of Christian Europe”, held in Sofia on the 16th – 17th of April, 2010 and organized by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the Institute for Science of Art, National Art Gallery, National Museum of History, Fund “Scientific Investigations”, also devoted to 30 years from the Inclusion of the Church in the List of World Cultural Heritage of UNESCO; Publication of two popular editions for the Church; Building of a system for multimedia presentation in the Church; Making a documentary film for the Church in Bulgarian, English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Greek and Russian. 3) In 2011 – Applying with a project on Priority 8 – Historical heritage, socialization and cultural traditions of the capital, of the metropolitan programme “Culture 2011” for financing doing “A Project on Preservation, Conservation and</p>

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		Management of an Immovable Monuments of Culture – The Boyana Church”
6.	Staffing training and development: <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>	Training an employee in management skills in the field of culture, organized by the Ministry of Culture – Programme PHARE – 1999. Participation of an employee in an educational seminar for museum workers – Francophones, working at the sites of UNESCO, organized by UNESCO in December 2011. Training the staff in working skills with European programmes. Training the staff to work with climatic parameters – controlling instruments for preservation and conservation of the monument.
7.	Sustainable development: <i>What are the effective mechanisms in place to ensure that resource use permitted in and around the World Heritage site is sustainable and does not impact negatively on OUV?</i>	Permanent budgetary control over spending funds. Control over observation on the recommendations and the restrictive mode established by the Ministry of Culture, on the part of the National Museum of History and the Department “Architecture” of the Metropolitan Municipality. An effective system for control, reading and correction of the climate conditions for preservation and conservation of the Monument – by sensors, installed in the site and

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	<p>device for recording storage. An engineer – climatologist controls the parameters and the whole work of the air conditioning installation.</p>
<p>8. 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 Museum puts into practice educational programmes with children and grown-ups – from 7 up to the age of 17 – plenary meetings, open lessons in history and Bulgarian medieval art. A film in Bulgarian, English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Greek and Russian is shown to the visitors of different age. It is a multi-media programme about the history, architecture, murals and the position of the site in the List of the World Cultural Heritage of UNESCO. In 2009 film-making and realization of 20 short documentary films about the Church on DVD in six languages (Bulgarian, English, French, German, Russian and Japanese), showing its history, architecture and murals were fulfilled in collaboration with “International Software and Information Utility Services” (ISIUS). An international conference “The Boyana Church between the East and the West in the Art of Christian Europe”, organized by the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the Institute for Science of Art, National Museum of History and Fund “Scientific Investigations” was held in Sofia. It was</p>

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		devoted to the investigation and significance of the Monument.
9.	Tourism and interpretation: <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>As a site from the List of the World Cultural Heritage of UNESCO, the Boyana Church is one of the most visited immovable cultural monuments in Bulgaria in 2011 – 37 313 visitors. Preliminary requests for tourist visits in it have been initiated. A film-show of a short documentary film realized by the multi-media presentation in eight languages has been introduced in order to prevent concentration of visitors without booking. The stay of visitors in the Church is within ten minutes. In order to preserve the Monument the National Institute for Immovable Cultural Heritage (NIICH) has developed a special regime of access for the visitors including the presence of 8 visitors and two companions from the Museum – a guard and a guide. The air-conditioning installation has been dimensioned to compensate 10 visitors located together in the Church. The visitors are taken on guided tours as well as provided with brief information about the Church in Bulgarian, English, German, French and Russian. The guided tours are 1248 and information for the visitors – 4275. Information signs have been placed. The operating mode with media (TV, film and photo) includes the requirements of the National Institute for Immovable Cultural Heritage (NIICH), regulating the number of visitors in the site, the duration of taking photographs or filming, the type of lighting fitting and its power, elongation from the walls and other restrictive measures in order to</p>

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	<p>preserve the murals.</p> <p>The Museum offers free admission for people with harms, children under school age, every single Monday from 3 p.m. for all visitors and on the 18th of May – the International Day of the Museums. Preferential prices – for the 17th of September – the Day of Sofia and for the 1st of November – the Day of the Leaders of the Bulgarian National Revival.</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)	
<p>The organization of donation campaigns for raising funds for conservation and restoration, specific mode for preservation of the Monument</p>	

and for management of the stream of visitors, methods of restoration, transference of the removed murals and their display in the Boyana Church – an innovative practice having no analogy in Bulgaria.

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).