



WORLD HERITAGE FUND'S INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

Explanatory note Funding for the 2016 cycle

CONTEXT

In line with articles 13.1, 13.2 and 19 to 26 of the *World Heritage Convention*, International Assistance is provided to States Parties for the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage located on their territories and inscribed, or potentially suitable for inscription on the World Heritage List. International Assistance should be seen as supplementary to national efforts for the conservation and management of World Heritage properties when adequate resources cannot be fully secured at the national level.

International Assistance is financed from the World Heritage Fund, which constitutes a trust fund, established under the *World Heritage Convention* in conformity with the provisions of the Financial Regulations of UNESCO. The resources of the Fund consist of compulsory and voluntary contributions made by States Parties to the *Convention*, and any other resources authorized by the Fund's regulations. The World Heritage Committee determines the budget for International Assistance on a biennial basis.

NB. This explanatory note does not apply to Emergency assistance requests, which can be submitted at any time during the year for properties included on the World Heritage List and which have suffered severe damage or are in imminent danger of severe damage due to sudden, unexpected phenomena. Such phenomena may include land subsidence, extensive fires, explosions, flooding or man-made disasters including war. This assistance does not concern cases of damage or deterioration caused by gradual processes of decay, pollution or erosion.

In addition, this explanatory note does not apply to International assistance requests for US\$ 5,000 or less, since they can be submitted at any time during the year.

ELIGIBILITY

All States Parties to the *Convention* are eligible in principle. However, the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* outline that when funds available are limited and a selection has to be made, preference should be given to:

- a Least Developed Country or Low Income Economy as defined by the United Nations Economic and Social Council's Committee for Development Policy, or
- a Lower Middle Income Country as defined by the World Bank, or
- a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), or
- a State Party in a post-conflict situation.

States Parties in arrears of payment of their compulsory or voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund are not eligible for international assistance. For the 2016 cycle, it means that **all contributions up to 2015 included have to be received in UNESCO bank account before the meeting of the panel in January 2016.**

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

States Parties with successful requests will be notified as of February/March 2016 (for requests for US\$ 30,000 or less which required no revision) or as of July/August 2016 (for requests above US\$ 30,000). Workplans and budgets are to be designed with this timeframe in mind.

1) Conservation and Management assistance requests – Technical cooperation

There is **no maximum amount**, but requests above US\$ 30,000 can be approved by the World Heritage Committee only (i.e. June/July 2016).

These requests cover activities related to the **conservation, management and presentation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List** or on the List of World Heritage in Danger. For example, conservation works, preparation or update of management plans or risk-preparedness plans fall under this category.

As a general rule, priority is given to

- requests related to properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
- requests related to the implementation of a Committee's decision, especially the ones on the state of conservation of properties;
- requests which will likely have a catalytic and multiplier effect ("seed money").

2) Conservation and Management assistance requests – Training & Research

There is **no maximum amount**, but requests above US\$ 30,000 can be approved by the World Heritage Committee only (i.e. June/July 2016).

These requests are mainly for **group training** for staff and specialists in the fields of identification, monitoring, conservation, management and presentation of World Heritage properties.

If funding allows, requests can be also submitted for scientific research benefiting World Heritage properties.

As a general rule, priority is given to

- requests related to properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger;
- requests related to the implementation of a Committee's decision, especially the ones on the state of conservation of properties;
- requests which will likely have a catalytic and multiplier effect ("seed money").

Requests to support individual training courses are not eligible. They should be submitted to UNESCO's Fellowship Section instead (see on <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/fellowships>).

3) Conservation and Management assistance requests – Promotion & Education

Maximum amount: US\$ 10,000.

These requests are for:

- meetings specifically organized to make the *Convention* better known, especially amongst young people;
- preparation of education and information material (such as brochures, publications, exhibitions, films, multimedia tools) for the general promotion of the *Convention* and the World Heritage List.

Requests for the promotion of a particular property are not eligible.

4) Preparatory Assistance requests

Maximum amount: US\$ 30,000.

In order of priority, these requests are meant to:

- **prepare or update national Tentative Lists** of properties suitable for inscription on the World Heritage List; a commitment will be required from the State Party to nominate in priority on these lists sites recognized in approved thematic advice, such as the thematic studies prepared by the Advisory Bodies, as corresponding to gaps on the List;
- organize meetings for the **harmonization of national Tentative Lists** within the same geo-cultural area;
- **prepare nominations** of properties for inscription on the World Heritage List, including preparatory work such as collection of basic information, scoping studies of the potential for demonstration of Outstanding Universal Value, including integrity or authenticity, comparative studies of the property in relation to other similar properties, including analysis in the context of the Gap Studies produced by the Advisory Bodies. Priority will be given to requests for sites recognized in approved thematic advice as corresponding to gaps on the List and/or for sites where preliminary investigations have shown that further inquiries would be justified, especially in the case of States Parties whose heritage is un-represented or under-represented on the World Heritage List;
- **prepare requests for Conservation and Management assistance** for more than US\$ 30,000, for consideration by the World Heritage Committee.

Requests for programmes/projects related to the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage should be made to the [Fund for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage](#)

HOW TO APPLY

1. Request a log-in at wh-intassistance@unesco.org and fill in the application online at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/intassistance> in English or French. Persons belonging

to National Commissions for UNESCO, Permanent Delegations to UNESCO or appropriate governmental Departments or Ministries can send their name, function, institution and email address to the World Heritage Centre (wh-intassistance@unesco.org); they will receive their log-in directly to their email address. The advantage of the online form is that the automatic calculations in the budget part can help avoiding mistakes;

OR

Download the Word electronic application form on the WHC website at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/intassistance> and fill in the application either in English or French. If you experience difficulty downloading this file, please contact the *Convention* Secretariat (wh-intassistance@unesco.org);

2. Attach relevant supporting documents and information that are deemed appropriate;
3. The application form must be signed and dated by the National Commission for UNESCO, the Permanent Delegation to UNESCO or appropriate governmental Department or Ministry as indicated in paragraph 244 of the *Operational Guidelines*;
4. The completed application form must be sent to the World Heritage Centre at the following address:

UNESCO World Heritage Centre
7, place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP
France

DEADLINE

The deadline for the *Convention* Secretariat to receive International Assistance requests for the 2016 cycle is **31 October 2015, midnight CET**.

Requests received after this deadline will not be eligible for funding under the 2016 cycle.

PROCESS

- Step 1: Requests must be received by the *Convention* Secretariat by **31 October 2015, midnight CET**.
- Step 2: Upon receiving the applications, the *Convention* Secretariat will perform a technical examination to ensure that the applications are complete (i.e. all fields duly filled in and all annexes or supported documentation mentioned in the request included) and therefore admissible. Incomplete forms which do not come back duly completed by **30 November 2015, midnight CET**, will be sent back to the States Parties for submission to a next cycle.
- Step 3: All admissible requests will be evaluated by the Advisory Bodies (November 2015-January 2016). The evaluation criteria used by the Advisory Bodies are outlined in Annex 9 of the *Operational Guidelines*.
- Step 4: All admissible requests will be examined during the meeting of the International Assistance panel, composed of representatives from the Secretariat, the Advisory Bodies and chaired, if possible, by the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee or a Vice-Chairperson. It will be held in **January 2016** (precise date to be confirmed).

- Step 5:
- (i) Requests up to US\$ 30,000 for which the recommendation is positive or negative will be submitted to the Chairperson for decision in the **second half of February 2016**. The Chairperson's final decision will be conveyed to the State Party concerned within one month.
 - (ii) Requests above US\$ 30,000 for which the recommendation is positive or negative will be submitted to the World Heritage Committee for decision in **June/July 2016**. The Committee's final decision will be conveyed to the State Party concerned within one month.
 - (iii) Requests for which the recommendation is 'for revision' will be sent back to the States Parties concerned to be revised. They must be sent back to the Secretariat by **31 March 2016, midnight CET**. If they arrive after this date, they will be examined by the panel of a next cycle, unless they are withdrawn by the States Parties concerned. The second International Assistance panel, dedicated only to revised requests and to requests which were kept pending because they were of lesser priority, will be held **around mid-April 2016** – exact date to be confirmed.

CONTACT AND INFORMATION

For further information as well as specific inquiries on the application process, you may contact wh-intassistance@unesco.org.

For further information on the *World Heritage Convention* and International Assistance under the World Heritage Fund, please consult: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/intassistance>.