

6TH WORLD HERITAGE SITE MANAGERS' FORUM

organised in conjunction with the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

India, as Host Country of the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee, UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICCROM and IUCN, under the World Heritage Leadership Programme are pleased to announce that the 6th edition of the World Heritage Site Managers' Forum (WHSMF24) will be organised in conjunction with the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee, with the theme:

“Heritage and communities: inclusive and effective approaches for the sustainable management of World Heritage properties”

World Heritage site managers, as well as members of World Heritage site management teams from across the globe are eligible to participate in this year's Forum aimed to create opportunities for the empowerment of site managers in expanding their networks as well as exchanging knowledge and experiences at an international level.

Host:	India
Organisers:	Archaeological Survey of India, attached Office of Ministry of Culture, Government of India; Aga Khan Trust for Culture; UNESCO World Heritage Centre; and ICCROM-IUCN World Heritage Leadership Programme
Venue:	New Delhi, India
Dates:	18 – 25 July 2024
Language:	English (interpretation will also be provided in French during plenary sessions only)
Partner:	ICOMOS

Theme and topics

Heritage and communities are inherently intertwined. The *World Heritage Convention* encourages community participation in the preservation of cultural and natural heritage, urging State Parties to implement policies aimed at integrating the cultural and natural heritage into the community's life. As such, communities should actively engage in the decision-making, monitoring, and evaluation of World Heritage properties. Presently, there are 1,199 World Heritage sites across 168 countries, which hold significant potential to alleviate poverty and improve sustainable livelihoods, thereby enhancing local community well-being. The upcoming Forum will serve as a platform to engage with communities and draw insights from successful frameworks where they contribute to managing World Heritage properties. The theme, "**Heritage and communities: inclusive and effective approaches for the sustainable management of World Heritage properties,**" emphasises the importance of collaborative and sustainable management practices with the following main topics:

- Understanding the achievements, challenges and opportunities of the *World Heritage Convention*

- Leveraging the role of communities at all levels of protection and management of World Heritage
- Enhancing capacities to manage change through resilience thinking and impact assessment in the context of World Heritage
- Strengthening sustainable tourism and development through effective management and heritage-based entrepreneurship
- Integrating innovative technologies for the conservation of World Heritage
- Fostering peer-learning and networking of site managers regionally and globally

Objectives of the Forum

The major objectives of WHSMF24 are:

- **To promote international cooperation** of World Heritage site managers and coordinate worldwide actions in favour of the protection and conservation of humankind's historical heritage through activities and interventions aimed at raising the awareness of States Parties to this heritage.
- **To reinforce and support the international network** of site managers that defines, improves and promotes conservation principles, standards, research, responsible practice, and innovation about the protection of World Heritage properties.
- To assist site managers through appropriate guidance **to harness the potential of World Heritage properties** and heritage in general.
- **To contribute to sustainable development**, notably through the active involvement of local communities at all levels of protection and management of World Heritage and increase the effectiveness and relevance of the *World Heritage Convention*.
- **To strengthen the enabling environment** by advocating policies, strategies, frameworks and tools that support sustainable development as an important vehicle for protecting and managing cultural and natural heritage of Outstanding Universal Value.
- **To directly expose the site managers to the issues discussed during the World Heritage Committee sessions** on the state of conservation (SOC) reports.

Who can apply?

- World Heritage site managers as well as persons working within the site management from all natural, cultural and mixed World Heritage properties may apply.
- Only **one (1) participant per World Heritage property**. An exception will be made for transboundary or transnational properties, for which only one (1) person per State Party involved may be accepted.
- Priority will be given to applicants from World Heritage properties whose **state of conservation reports** are included for discussion at the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee.
- Site managers who have not yet had the opportunity to attend previous editions of the World Heritage Site Managers' Forum will be given preference.
- Selection will also be guided in view of **balancing regional, age and gender** distribution of participants as well as typologies of World Heritage properties represented.

- The working language of the Forum will be **English**. Interpretation will be provided in French during the plenary sessions of the Forum only.

Conditions: travel, accommodation, living expenses, and attendance

- The selected participants should commit themselves to attend the whole duration of the Forum.
- **Selected participants will be responsible for their round-trip travel costs to and from New Delhi, as well as their accommodation and living expenses during the entire Forum.** Information on specific hotels near the venue of the WHSMF24 will be provided to the Forum participants for their individual reservations.
- Selected participants are strongly encouraged to seek financial support from their institutions and other sources such as governmental institutions, employers and other funding agencies.
- The Host Country has secured **limited funds to fully support the participation to some of the selected site managers, notably from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Islands Developing States (SIDS)**¹ to attend the Forum. Please note that this grant is not automatically awarded. You will be notified of your grant status only when the selection result is sent to you.

Application process

Please note that the following information will be requested as part of the application process:

- Applications should be completed and submitted in **English or French** only. Applications in languages other than the above-mentioned will not be considered.
- Applicants should provide a description of responsibilities and duties performed at their World Heritage property (max. 500 characters).
- A professional curriculum vitae in PDF format (max. 2 pages).
- An electronic version of your valid passport in JPG or PDF format.

Site Managers are invited to submit their application through the online application form of the 6th World Heritage Site Manager's Forum, which is available at:

whc.unesco.org/en/whsmf24/

The deadline to apply is 25 April 2024 at 23:59, CEST. Participants will be informed directly of the selection process result from 15 May 2024.

For more information, please contact the Forum organisers by email at wh-smf@unesco.org

¹ Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States (as defined in the Paragraph 239 of the Operational Guidelines).