

7TH WORLD HERITAGE SITE MANAGERS' FORUM

organised in conjunction with the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICCROM and IUCN, under the World Heritage Leadership Programme, are pleased to announce that the 7th edition of the World Heritage Site Managers' Forum (WHSM25) will be organised in conjunction with the session of the World Heritage Committee. The Forum's theme is:

Enhancing engagement in the World Heritage Reactive Monitoring process

The Forum is supported by the Republic of Bulgaria. In addition, a limited number of travel grants will be provided by the Republic of Ireland and ICCROM to support the participation of some selected site managers.

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.

Organisers: UNESCO World Heritage Centre, ICCROM and IUCN

Venue/dates: Online Zoom meeting, June 2025 (date to be confirmed); and
UNESCO Headquarters, 7 – 9 July 2025 (excluding travel dates)

Language: English (interpretation in French is foreseen)

Theme and topics

This year's Forum will focus on strengthening the capacity of site managers and World Heritage actors to engage with the [Reactive Monitoring process](#). Reactive Monitoring is "the reporting by the World Heritage Centre, other sectors of UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee on the state of conservation of specific World Heritage properties under threat."¹ To address threats to these properties, collaboration with a diverse range of actors – including site managers, management institutions, rights-holders and stakeholders – is crucial. The Forum will also explore ways to involve these various actors, ensuring proactive networks for integrating World Heritage concerns into broader planning and policy development. This edition of the Forum will cover the following main topics:

- The *World Heritage Convention*, its actors and key processes;
- The Reactive Monitoring process, including reporting and procedures;
- Collaboration with a wide range of actors for better management;
- Existing and forthcoming resources to strengthen the management of World Heritage properties.

Additional topics will be explored based on the issues in the World Heritage properties of the selected participants.

¹ Paragraph 169, the [Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention](#)

Objectives of the Forum

The major objectives of WHSMF25 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 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 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 is eligible?

- Current World Heritage site managers as well as persons working within the site management from all natural, cultural and mixed World Heritage properties are eligible.
- Only **one (1) participant per World Heritage property** will be accepted. 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 participants from World Heritage properties that are currently under the Reactive Monitoring process, and especially to those inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.
- 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.

Conditions: travel, accommodation, living expenses, and attendance

- Selected participants will be responsible for their round-trip travel costs to and from UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, as well as their accommodation and living expenses during the entire Forum. Information on specific hotels near the venue of the WHSMF25 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.
- ICCROM has secured **limited travel grants to support the participation of some selected site managers to attend the Forum, from Least Developed Countries ([LDCs](#)), Small Island Developing States ([SIDS](#)), or in conflict/post-conflict situations²**. 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.
- The selected participants should commit themselves to attend the whole duration of the Forum.
- The participants who confirm attendance will be communicated to the relevant State Party Delegation.

² As defined in the Paragraph 239 of the Operational Guidelines.

Application process

Please note that the applications should be completed and submitted in English or French only. Applications in languages other than the above-mentioned will not be considered.

The following documents will be requested as part of the application:

- 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 applications through the online form of the 7th World Heritage Site Managers' Forum, which is available at:

whc.unesco.org/en/whsmf25/

The deadline to apply is 4 May 2025 at 23:59, CEST. Applicants will be informed directly of the selection process result from 12 May 2025.

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