Focus 7

Reactive Monitoring and state of conservation

June 2022

Learning objectives

At the end of the session, trainees will be able to:

- ✓ understand what **World Heritage Reactive Monitoring** is and why it is **crucial for the conservation of World Heritage properties**
- ✓ be **aware of the conservation measures and obligations** required to **preserve the state of conservation of properties** over time
- ✓ **differentiate between Reactive Monitoring** and **Periodic Reporting** as two different processes related to the assessment of the state of conservation of properties
- ✓ acknowledge the **inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger** as a **conservation and monitoring tool**
- ✓ navigate through all **relevant documents and tools related to monitoring and conservation**
- ✓ understand the **crucial role the World Heritage Committee** plays in monitoring the state of conservation of properties
- ✓ use the **Information System on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties** available on the World Heritage Centre's website page

Module outline

I. Reactive Monitoring and World Heritage properties' conservation

1. Reactive Monitoring: general presentation
2. Differences between Reactive Monitoring and Periodic Reporting
3. State of conservation (SOC): general presentation and reports format
4. Monitoring the state of conservation of World Heritage properties

II. Monitoring and conservation related documentation and tools

1. SOC reports' working documents
2. Role of the World Heritage Committee in monitoring the state of conservation of properties
   - General presentation
   - Inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger: a conservation and monitoring tool
   - Reactive monitoring missions and advisory missions
3. UNESCO World Heritage Centre: Information System on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties
   - General presentation of the online tool
   - Demo presentation of the online tool

Reactive Monitoring: general presentation

What is Reactive Monitoring for World Heritage? Paragraph 169 of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*:

> **169.** **Reactive Monitoring** is the **reporting** by the Secretariat (World Heritage Centre), other sectors of UNESCO and the Advisory Bodies to the Committee on the **state of conservation of specific World Heritage properties that are under threat**. To this end, the State Parties shall submit **specific reports** and **impact studies** each time exceptional circumstances occur or work is undertaken which may have an impact on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property or its state of conservation."

***Source**: Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (2021)*

Reactive Monitoring Process

Once a site is inscribed on the World Heritage List (and becomes a "World Heritage property"), the State Party has to ensure that effective and active measures are taken for its protection, conservation and presentation.

To do so, States Parties are encouraged to establish services for the protection, conservation and presentation of the heritage, to take appropriate legal, scientific, technical, administrative and financial measures to protect the heritage, not to not take any deliberate measures that directly or indirectly damage their heritage or that of another State Party to the Convention, and finally to provide information to the World Heritage Committee on the implementation of the Convention and on the state of conservation of their properties. To ensure that all possible measures are taken to prevent the deletion of any property from the World Heritage List, the World Heritage Committee adopted a specific process: the **Reactive Monitoring**.

***Source**: Reactive Monitoring Process, World Heritage Centre website*

Reactive Monitoring and conservation are at the heart of the *World Heritage Convention*, as stated in its Articles 4 and 6:

> **4.** **Each State Party** to this *Convention* recognizes that the **duty** of ensuring the identification, protection, **conservation**, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage referred to in Articles 1 and 2 and situated on its territory, belongs primarily to that State. **It will do all it can to this end**, to the utmost of its own resources and, where appropriate, with any international assistance and co-operation, in particular, financial, artistic, scientific and technical, which it may be able to obtain."

> **6.** **The States Parties undertake,** in accordance with the provisions of this *Convention*, **to give their help** in the identification, protection, **conservation** and presentation of the cultural and natural heritage referred to in paragraphs 2 and 4 of Article 11 if the States on whose territory it is situated so request."

Reactive Monitoring: differences with Periodic Reporting

Although Reactive Monitoring and Periodic Reporting are complementary exercises and may share similarities in their monitoring objectives, it is crucial not to confuse them.

World Heritage properties are subject to various reporting measures, and they are also reported through the **Periodic Reporting exercise** (Article 29 of the *Convention*, Paragraph 199 of the *Operational Guidelines*). **The Periodic Reporting exercise serves four main purposes, which are to provide**:

- an **assessment of the application of the *World Heritage Convention*** by the State Party;
- an **assessment as to whether the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV)** of the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List is being **maintained over time** (see Focus 1 – OUV);
- **up-dated information** about the World Heritage properties to record the **changing circumstances** and **state of conservation** of the properties;
- a **mechanism for regional co-operation and exchange of information** and **experiences** between States Parties concerning the implementation of the *Convention* and World Heritage conservation

Source: *https://whc.unesco.org/en/periodicreporting/*

Reactive Monitoring: differences with Periodic Reporting

Reactive Monitoring and Periodic Reporting differ from one another on various aspects:

World Heritage Convention

Don't confuse Reactive monitoring with the Periodic Reporting exercise

World Heritage properties are also reported on through the Periodic reporting exercise. Indeed, the States Parties are requested to submit reports to the UNESCO General Conference through the World Heritage Committee on the legislative and administrative provisions they have adopted and other actions which they have taken for the application of the Convention, including the state of conservation of the World Heritage properties located on their territories (Article 29 of the Convention and Paragraph 199 of the *Operational Guidelines*).

- The section I of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire is completed by **National Focal Points** at a **national level**, whereas Reactive Monitoring **never takes place at a national level but at World Heritage properties' level**
- The Periodic Reporting process involves **all the States Parties of the same region**, while Reactive Monitoring is **properties-driven**
- Periodic Reporting is run according to **pre-defined cycles of about 6-years**, whereas Reactive Monitoring can be **triggered at any time** by the World Heritage Committee or the World Heritage Centre, if a threat requires it
- If Periodic Reporting happens **every 6-years**, Reactive Monitoring can be **each in a year**. That is the case of sites inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
- In Periodic Reporting, factors affecting properties are **self-declared by National Focal Points and Site Managers** themselves, while the factors identified through the Reactive Monitoring process are highlighted by **experts** during **reactive monitoring missions**, **advisory missions** or through information received from **other sources** than the State Party

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Mission report	Reactive Monitoring	Periodic Reporting
At what level?	At properties' level	At properties and States Parties' levels
What properties are concerned?	Some World Heritage properties	All World Heritage properties and all States Parties
When?	Whenever during the year (adapted to emergency situations)	Approximately every 6 year per region
How are data collected?	Reactive monitoring or advisory missions, other relevant source, etc.	National focal points and World Heritage propertt' managers

I. Reactive Monitoring and World Heritage properties' conservation

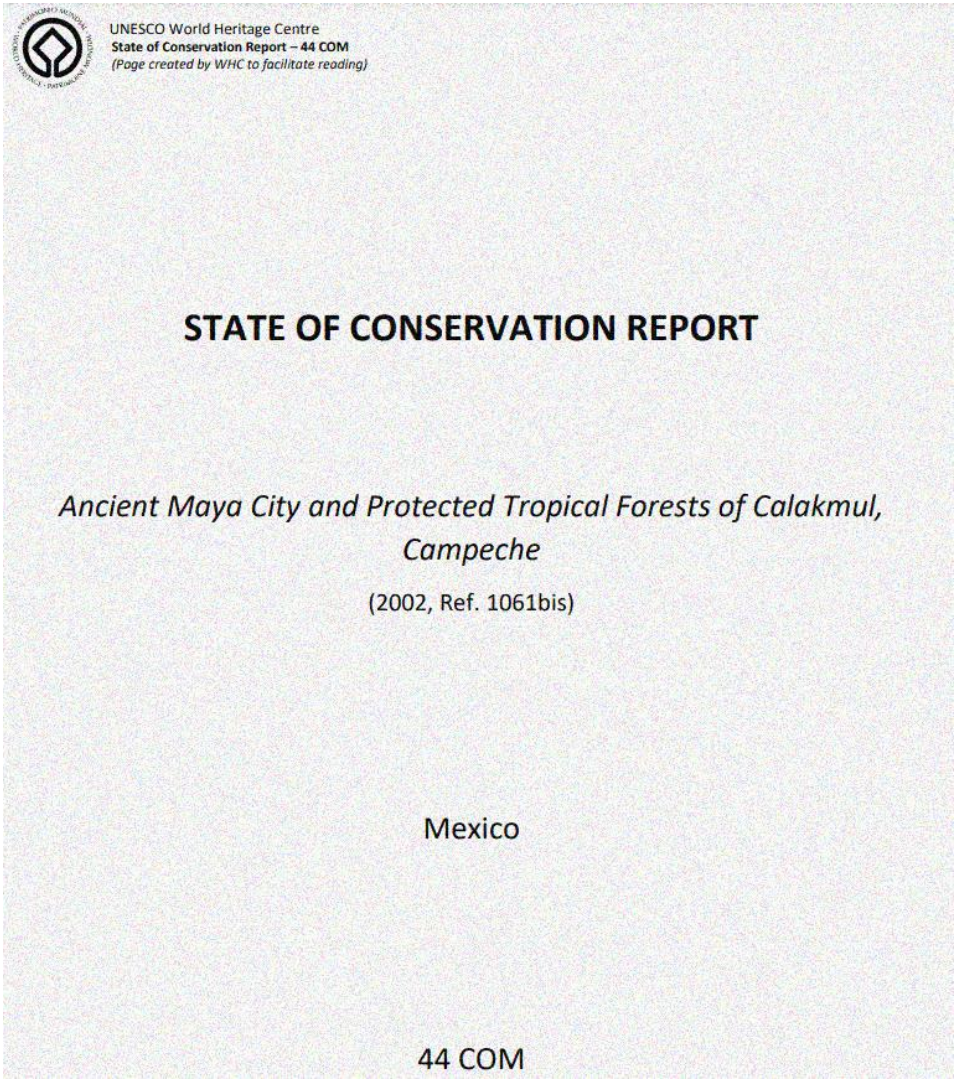
State of conservation (SOC): general presentation

The **World Heritage Centre** and the **Advisory Bodies** review **all information available on the state of conservation (SOC) of properties** whose examination is foreseen by the **World Heritage Committee**:

- SOC reports submitted by the State Party;
- information received from a third parties;
- press articles;
- mission reports;
- comments and feed-back on these by the State Party, etc.

An essential source of information are the **SOC reports submitted by the States Parties**: it gives to the State Party the opportunity to **bring all relevant information to the attention of the World Heritage Centre** and the **Advisory Bodies**. States Parties are also invited to **submit detailed information on development projects** which can impact on the OUV to inform the World Heritage Centre (Para. 172, *Operational Guidelines*)

***Example of a SOC report**: Ancient Maya City and Protected Tropical Forests of Calakmul, Campeche (Mexico), 2021, 44 COM available in the World Heritage's State of Conservation Information System: https://whc.unesco.org/document/180077*


UNESCO World Heritage Centre
State of Conservation Report – 44 COM
(Page created by WHC to facilitate reading)

STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORT

Ancient Maya City and Protected Tropical Forests of Calakmul, Campeche

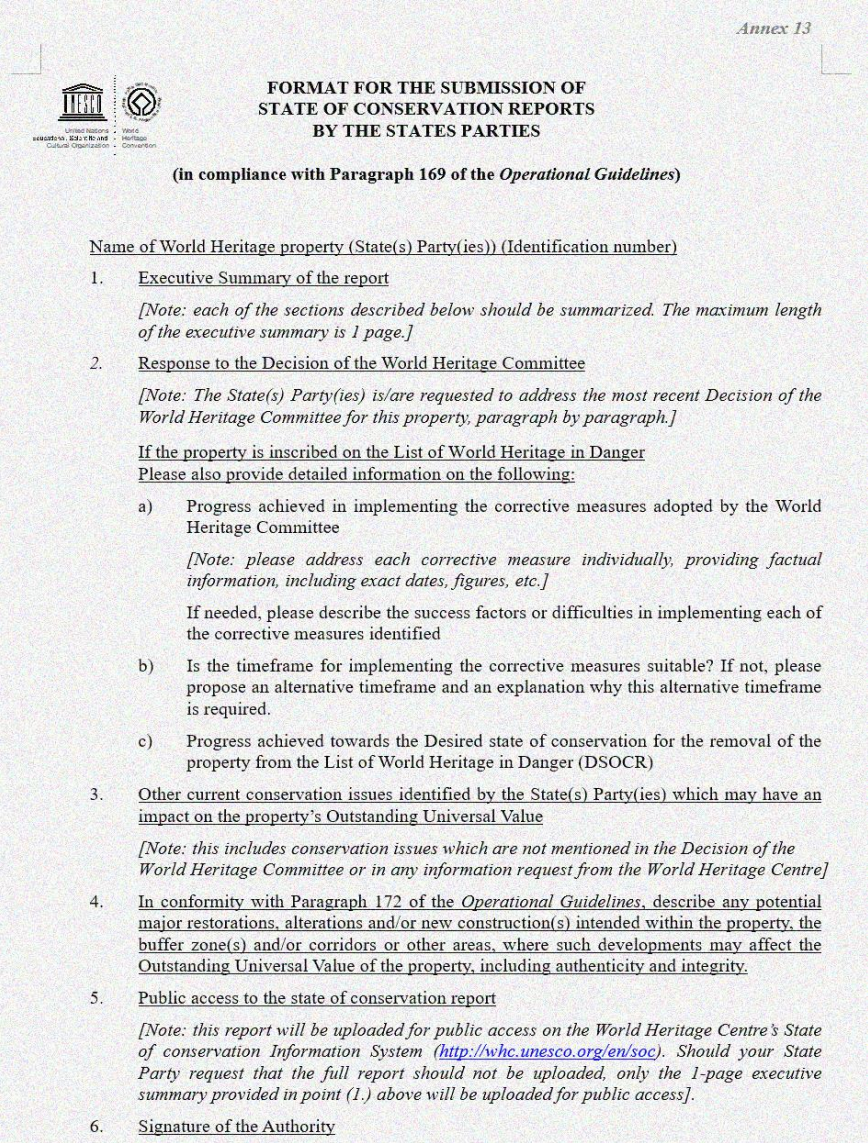
(2002, Ref. 1061bis)

Mexico

44 COM

I. Reactive Monitoring and World Heritage properties' conservation

State of conservation (SOC): SOC reports format



Annex 13

FORMAT FOR THE SUBMISSION OF STATE OF CONSERVATION REPORTS BY THE STATES PARTIES

(in compliance with Paragraph 169 of the *Operational Guidelines*)

Name of World Heritage property (State(s) Party(ies)) (Identification number)

1. Executive Summary of the report

   [Note: each of the sections described below should be summarized. The maximum length of the executive summary is 1 page.]

2. Response to the Decision of the World Heritage Committee

   [Note: The State(s) Party(ies) is/are requested to address the most recent Decision of the World Heritage Committee for this property, paragraph by paragraph.]

   If the property is inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger
   Please also provide detailed information on the following:

   a) Progress achieved in implementing the corrective measures adopted by the World Heritage Committee

      [Note: please address each corrective measure individually, providing factual information, including exact dates, figures, etc.]

      If needed, please describe the success factors or difficulties in implementing each of the corrective measures identified

   b) Is the timeframe for implementing the corrective measures suitable? If not, please propose an alternative timeframe and an explanation why this alternative timeframe is required.

   c) Progress achieved towards the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR)

3. Other current conservation issues identified by the State(s) Party(ies) which may have an impact on the property's Outstanding Universal Value

   [Note: this includes conservation issues which are not mentioned in the Decision of the World Heritage Committee or in any information request from the World Heritage Centre]

4. In conformity with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, describe any potential major restorations, alterations and/or new construction(s) intended within the property, the buffer zone(s) and/or corridors or other areas, where such developments may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property, including authenticity and integrity.

5. Public access to the state of conservation report

   [Note: this report will be uploaded for public access on the World Heritage Centre's State of conservation Information System (http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc). Should your State Party request that the full report should not be uploaded, only the 1-page executive summary provided in point (1.) above will be uploaded for public access].

6. Signature of the Authority

The **SOC reports are then prepared jointly** by the **World Heritage Centre** and the **Advisory Bodies.** Once ready, they are presented as a working document for examination by the **World Heritage Committee**

The States Parties can contribute to ensuring the accuracy of the SOC reports through several entry points:

- State Party's report on the state of conservation to be submitted to the World Heritage Centre (see format in Annex 13, *Operational Guidelines*)
- specific information submitted in advance by the State Party (Para. 172, *Operational Guidelines*)
- State Party's reply to World Heritage Centre's letters regarding specific information received from other sources (Para. 174, *Operation Guidelines*)
- information provided by the State Party during a Reactive Monitoring mission
- comments by the State Party to the Reactive Monitoring mission report

The SOC report's format comprises:

- background information
- current conservation issues
- analysis and conclusion of the Secretariat and the Advisory Bodies
- draft decision

Source: *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (2021), Annex 13*

I. Reactive Monitoring and World Heritage properties' conservation

Monitoring the state of conservation of World Heritage properties

Monitoring the state of conservation of cultural and natural World Heritage properties can be done in different ways, depending on the nature of the properties, their specificities and their different situations

To better understand **how monitoring the state of conservation** of properties happens in both **a theoretical and a practical way**, **various tools** are made available by the **World Heritage Centre** and the **Advisory Bodies**, such as:

- *Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage (2010)*
- *Managing Natural World Heritage (2012)*
- *Managing Cultural World Heritage (2013)*
- *The Benefits of Natural World Heritage (2014)*
- *IUCN World Heritage Outlook 2: A conservation assessment of all natural World Heritage sites (2017)*
- *Guidance and Toolkit for Heritage Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context (2022)*

SOC reports' working documents

State of conservation reports are prepared according to different type of working documents, the most useful ones notably being:

- States Parties reports;
- Reactive Monitoring mission reports;
- previous Decisions of the World Heritage Committee

***Source**: https://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/44COM/?documents&*

Subsequently to the examination of the SOC reports during its ordinary session, the World Heritage Committee adopts a decision, which may take one or more of the following steps. It may decide that:

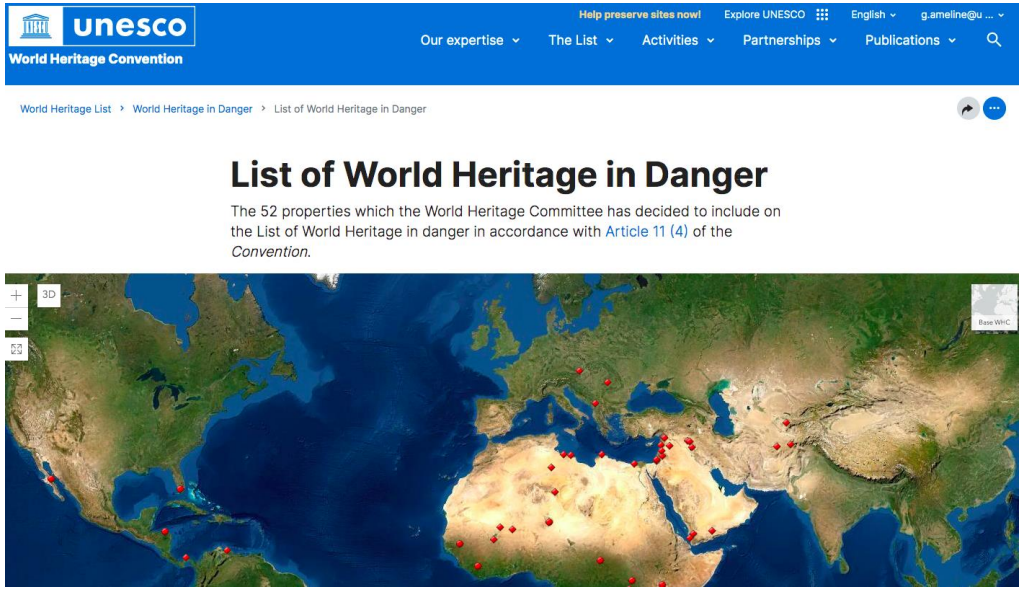
- **no further action** should be taken, if the property **has not seriously deteriorated**;
- the property **be maintained on the World Heritage List**, if it **has seriously deteriorated**, but **not to the extent that its restoration is impossible**. The Committee may also decide that **technical co-operation** be provided under the World Heritage Fund;
- to **inscribe the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger** (Para. 177-189, *Operational Guidelines*), when specific requirements and criteria are met;
- to **delete the property from List**, when there is evidence that the property **has deteriorated to the point where it has irretrievably lost those characteristics** which determined its inscription on the List. Before any such action is taken, the World Heritage Centre will inform the concerned State Party. Any comments which the State Party may make will be brought to the attention of the Committee;
- when the **information available is not sufficient** to enable the Committee to take one of the measures described above, the World Heritage Centre be authorised to **take the necessary action to ascertain**, in consultation with the State Party concerned, the **present condition of the property**, the **dangers to the property** and the **feasibility of adequately restoration the property**, and to **report to the Committee on the results of its action.** In case an emergency action is required, the Committee may authorise its financing from the World Heritage Fund through an **emergency assistance request**.

Reactive Monitoring also includes provisions for monitoring in case of danger threatening World Heritage properties, as stated in Article 11.4 of the *Convention* regarding the inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger:

“

11.4. The Committee shall establish, keep up to date and publish, whenever circumstances shall so require, under the title of **“list of World Heritage in Danger”**, a list of the property appearing in the World Heritage List **for the conservation of which major operations are necessary** and for which **assistance** has been requested under this *Convention*. The list may include only such property forming part of the cultural and natural heritage as **is threatened by serious and specific dangers, such as**:

- the threat of disappearance caused by accelerated deterioration, large-scale public or private projects or rapid urban or tourist development projects;
- destruction caused by changes in the use or ownership of the land;
- major alterations due to unknown causes;
- abandonment for any reason whatsoever;
- the outbreak or the threat of an armed conflict;
- calamities and cataclysms;
- serious fires, earthquakes, landslides;
- volcanic eruptions;
- changes in the water level, floods and tidal waves.”



***Source**: https://whc.unesco.org/en/danger/*

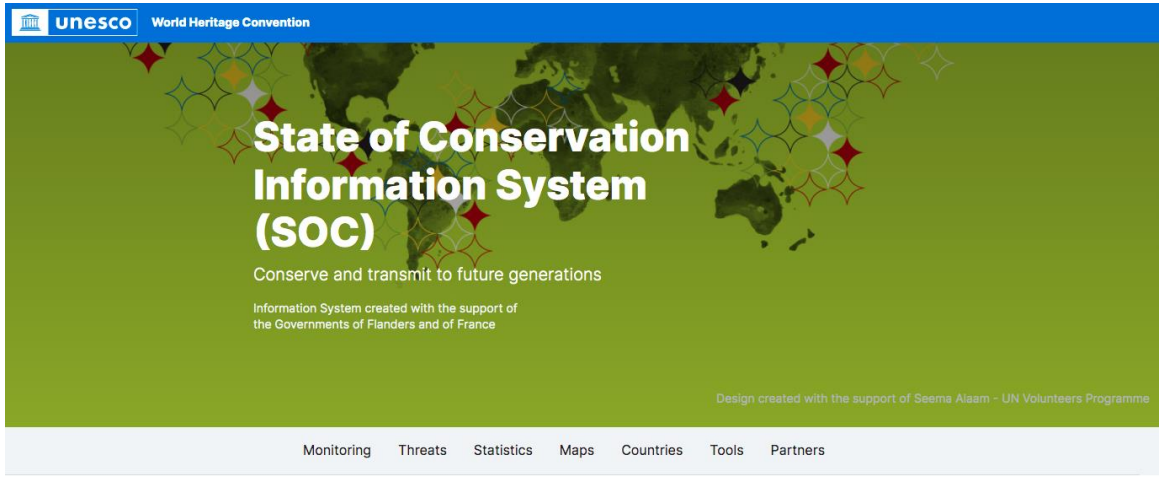
Role of the Committee: Reactive monitoring missions and advisory missions

The World Heritage system provides for two types of on site missions to monitor the properties' state of conservation: reactive monitoring missions and advisory missions. They differ from one another on several aspects:

	Reactive monitoring missions	Advisory missions
Initiation	A decision from the **World Heritage Committee** initiates this type of missions	Happens when a **State Party** or the **World Heritage Committee** ask for it
Objectives	The goal of reactive monitoring missions is to **address specific issues** raised in the SOC report	Their objective is to **give advices on issues** raised by the concerned State(s) Partie(s)
Terms of reference	Based on the **Committee's decision** and are **financed by the World Heritage Fund**	Based on request by the **concerned State(s) Partie(s)** or by the **Committee; funded by the State Party** itself (exceptions mentioned in Para.28, OGs)
Mission	Consists of **meetings** and **field visits** at the World Heritage properties. They focus on the **terms of reference** but also look at the **general state** of the property. They evaluate the **progress on existing corrective measures**, and can sometimes result in a **Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger** (DSOCR)	Consists in **meetings** and **field visits**. These missions focus solely on the **terms of reference**. They result in **advice** given to the State(s) Partie(s)
Report	In their report, **recommendations** are expressed **on actions to be taken** as well as on **Danger-listing** (see slide 13) or on the **removal** from the World Heritage List and/or the List of World Heritage in Danger. The recommendations are expressed to the **concerned State(s) Partie(s)** via the **World Heritage Committee**	Their reports only focus on **recommendations on actions to be taken**. These recommendations are directly expressed to the **State(s) Partie(s)** without going through the World Heritage Committee

II. Monitoring and conservation related documentation and tools

UNESCO World Heritage Centre: Information System on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties



***Source**: https://whc.unesco.org/en/soc/*

In order to **enhance institutional memory**, improve **transparency of processes** and easier **access to the relevant information** by the largest number of stakeholders, the World Heritage Committee encouraged all States Parties to make **public the reports submitted on the state of conservation** of World Heritage properties through the **World Heritage Centre's State of conservation Information System** (Decision **37 COM 7C**). Such reports have to be submitted following a standard compulsory format (Annex 13, *Operational Guidelines*)

The State of conservation Information System is an online tool made available on the World Heritage Centre website

It aims at giving a **trove of reliable data on the state of conservation of all World Heritage properties** since 1979. It also points out the **threats** properties have faced in the past, or are still currently facing

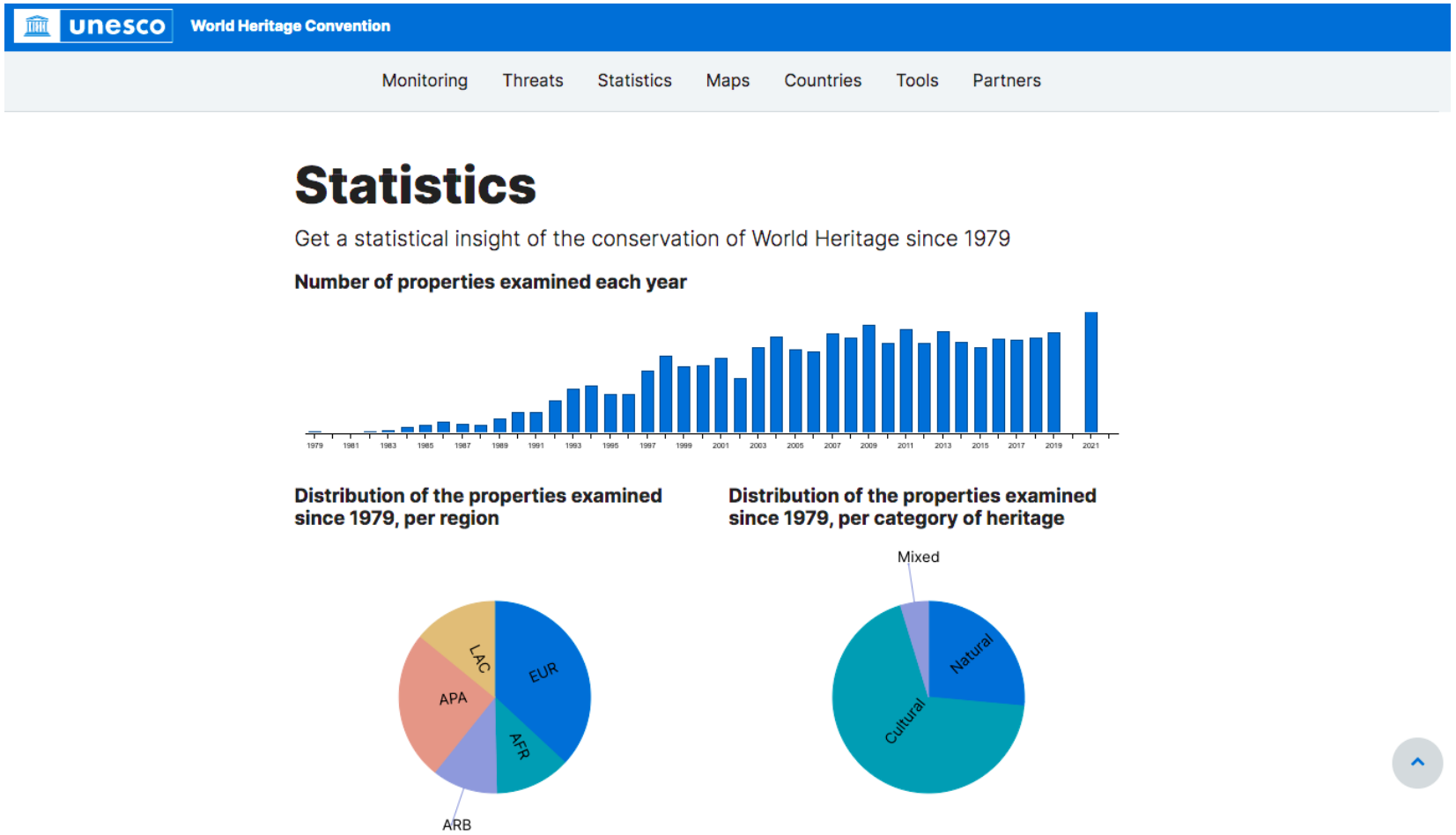
The information available through this comprehensive monitoring system are **thousands of reports and decisions adopted by the World Heritage Committee**

Through the online tool, it is possible to **extract statistical data on the way World Heritage properties are being conserved over time** since 1979

This includes **cultural**, **natural** and **mixed properties** from **all regions** across the world

To this date, this comprehensive system deals with:

- **4,051** reports
- **593** properties
- **147** States Parties
- **408** cultural properties
- **157** natural properties
- **28** mixed properties



To help site managers and other heritage stakeholders **identify factors that could potentially impact a property World Heritage property**, the system also lists threats/factors affecting the OUV of World Heritage properties. This standard list gives a series of **14 primary factors**, also used in the Periodic Reporting exercise, encompassing each number of **secondary factors**

Buildings and Development
- Commercial development
- Housing
- Industrial areas
- Interpretative and visitation facilities
- Major visitor accommodation and associated infrastructure

Transportation Infrastructure
- Air transport infrastructure
- Effects arising from use of transportation infrastructure
- Ground transport infrastructure
- Marine transport infrastructure
- Underground transport infrastructure

Services Infrastructures
- Localised utilities
- Major linear utilities
- Non-renewable energy facilities
- Renewable energy facilities
- Water infrastructure

Pollution
- Air pollution
- Ground water pollution
- Input of excess energy
- Pollution of marine waters
- Solid waste
- Surface water pollution

Biological resource use/modification
- Aquaculture
- Commercial hunting
- Commercial wild plant collection
- Crop production
- Fishing/collecting aquatic resources
- Forestry /wood production
- Land conversion
- Livestock farming / grazing of domesticated animals
- Subsistence hunting
- Subsistence wild plant collection

Physical resource extraction
- Mining
- Oil and gas
- Quarrying
- Water (extraction)

Local conditions affecting physical fabric
- Dust
- Micro-organisms
- Pests
- Radiation/light
- Relative humidity
- Temperature
- Water (rain/water table)
- Wind

Social/cultural uses of heritage
- Changes in traditional ways of life and knowledge system
- Identity, social cohesion, changes in local population and community
- Impacts of tourism / visitor / recreation
- Indigenous hunting, gathering and collecting
- Ritual / spiritual / religious and associative uses
- Society's valuing of heritage

Other human activities
- Civil unrest
- Deliberate destruction of heritage
- Illegal activities
- Military training
- Terrorism
- War

Climate change and severe weather events
- Changes to oceanic waters
- Desertification
- Drought
- Flooding
- Other climate change impacts
- Storms
- Temperature change

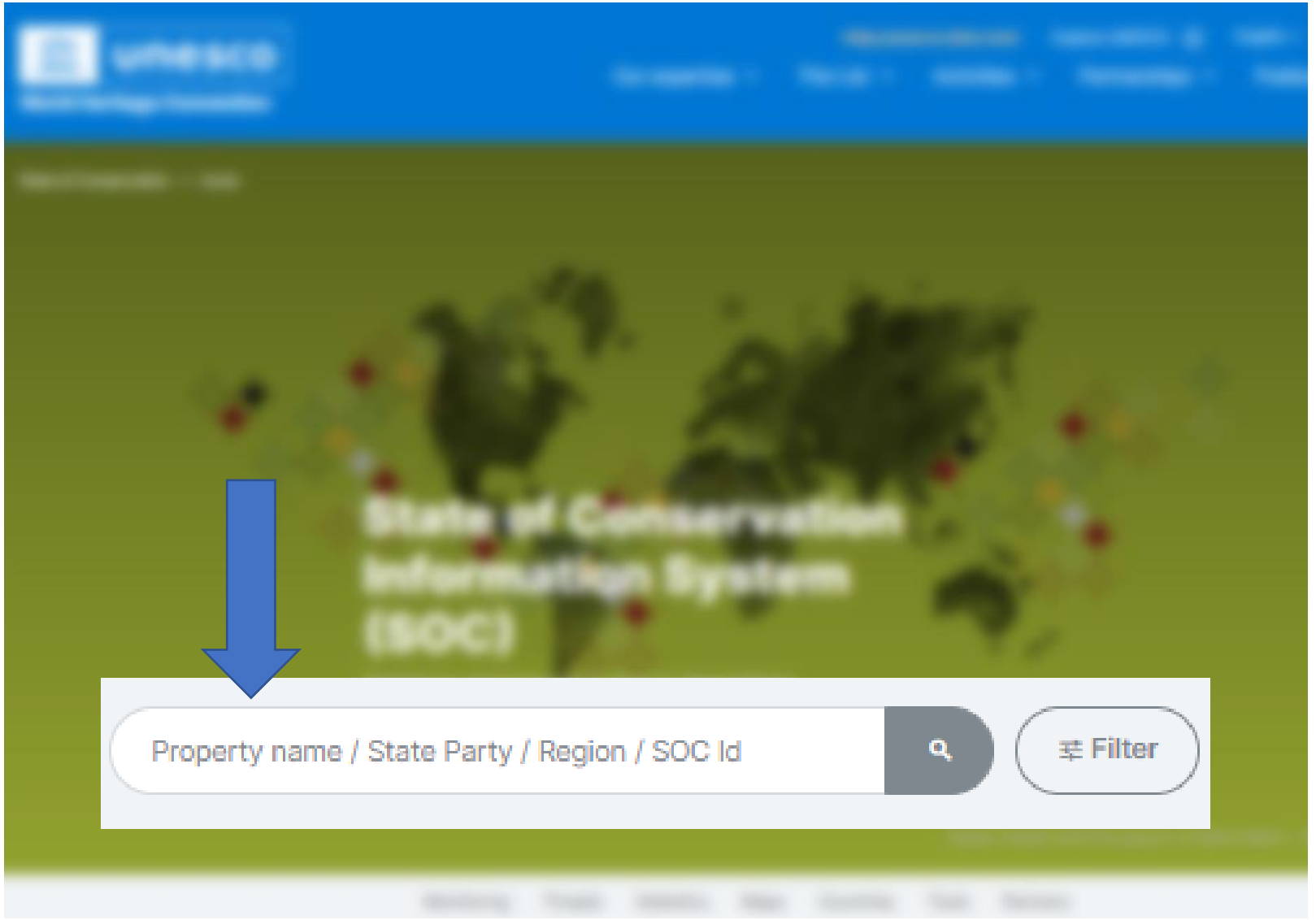
Sudden ecological or geological events
- Avalanche/ landslide
- Earthquake
- Erosion and siltation/ deposition
- Fire (widlfires)
- Tsunami/tidal wave
- Volcanic eruption

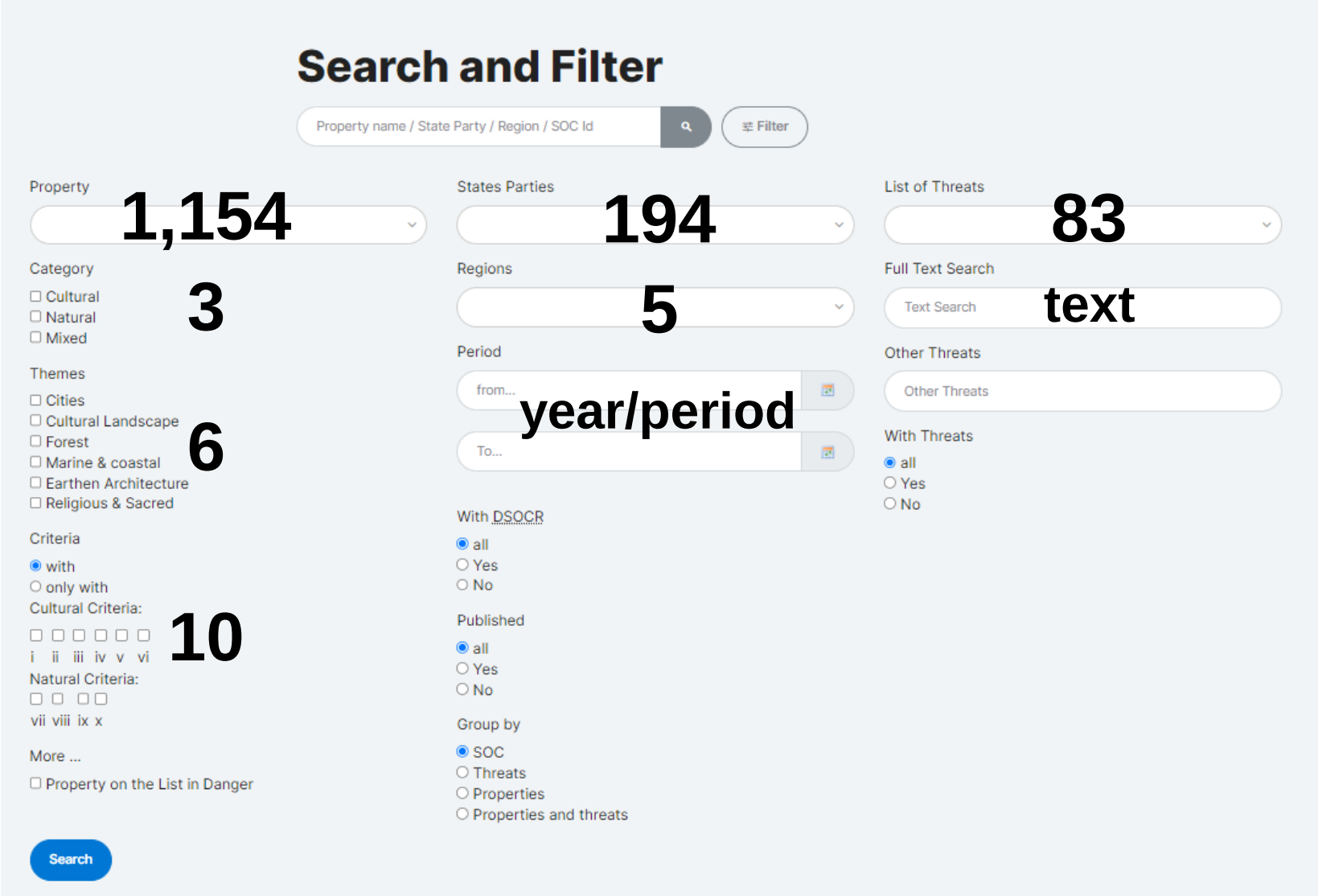
Invasive/alien species or hyper-abundant species
- Hyper-abundant species
- Invasive / alien freshwater species
- Invasive / alien marine species
- Invasive/alien terrestrial species
- Modified genetic material
- Translocated species

Management and institutional factors
- Financial resources
- Governance
- High impact research / monitoring activities
- Human resources
- Legal framework
- Low impact research / monitoring activities
- Management activities
- Management systems/ management plan

II. Monitoring and conservation related documentation and tools

Information System on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties: **Demo presentation**




Search and Filter
Property name / State Party / Region / SOC Id
Filter
Property
1,154
States Parties
194
List of Threats
83
Category
3
Cultural
Natural
Mixed
Regions
5
Full Text Search
Text Search
text
Themes
6
Cities
Cultural Landscape
Forest
Marine & coastal
Earthen Architecture
Religious & Sacred
Period
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To...
Other Threats
Other Threats
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No
Criteria
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Cultural Criteria:
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i ii iii iv v vi
Natural Criteria:
vii viii ix x
With DSOCR
all
Yes
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all
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No
Group by
SOC
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More ...
Property on the List in Danger
Search

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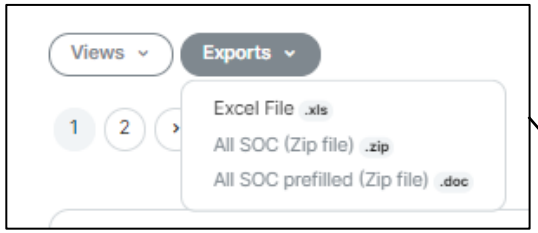
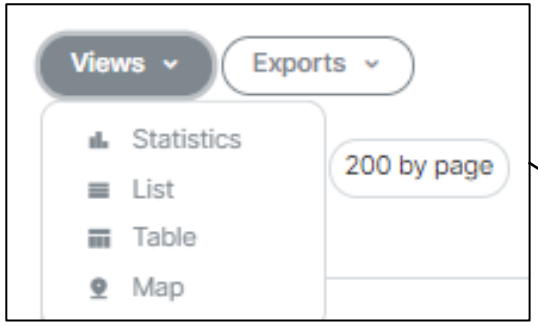
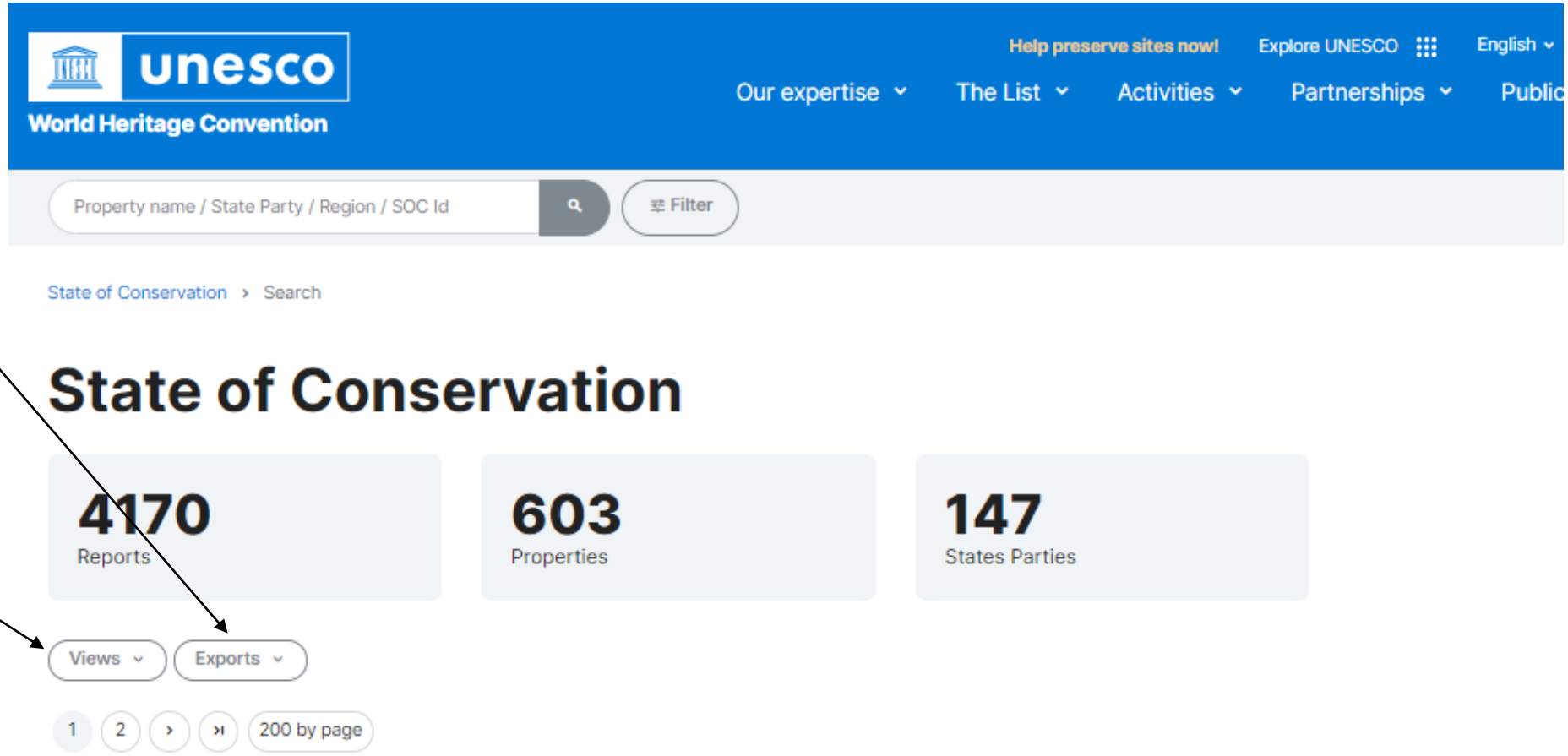
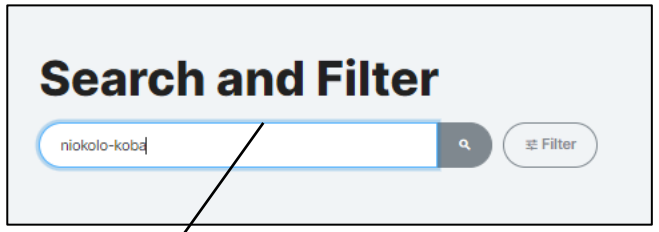


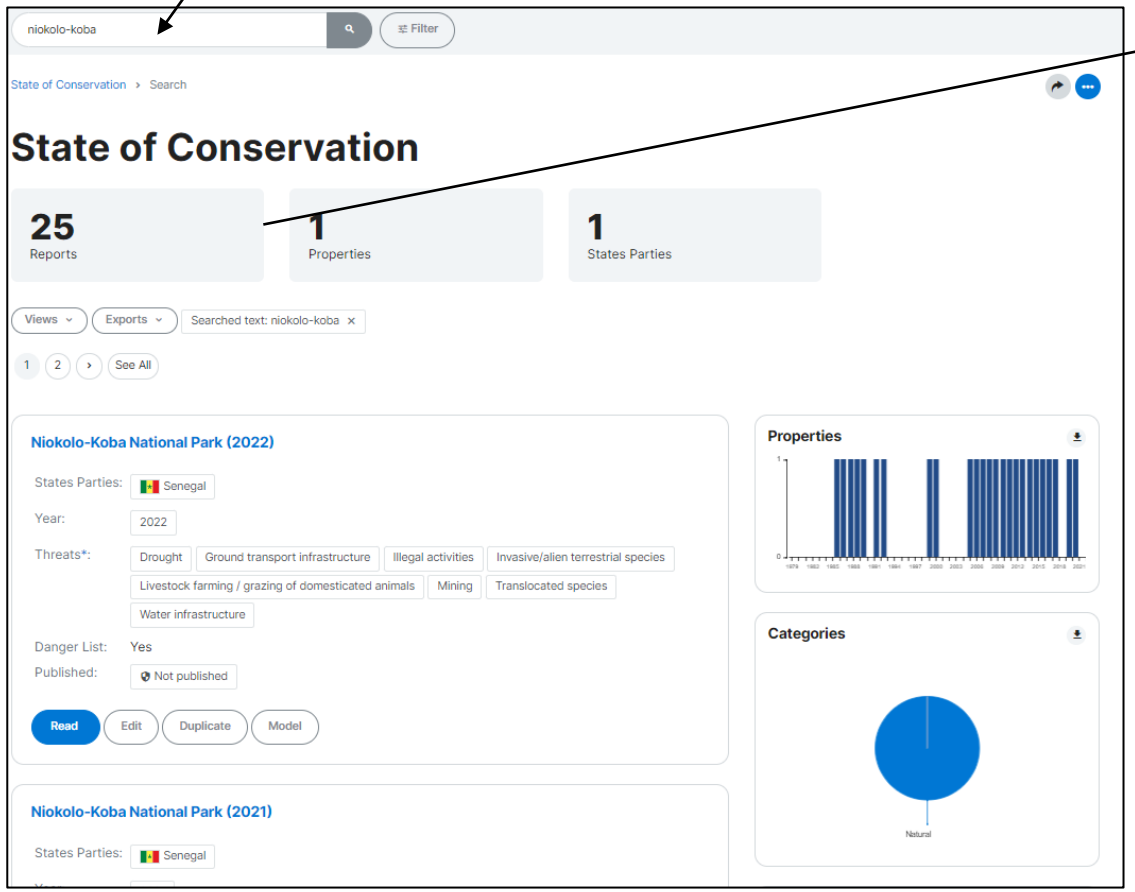


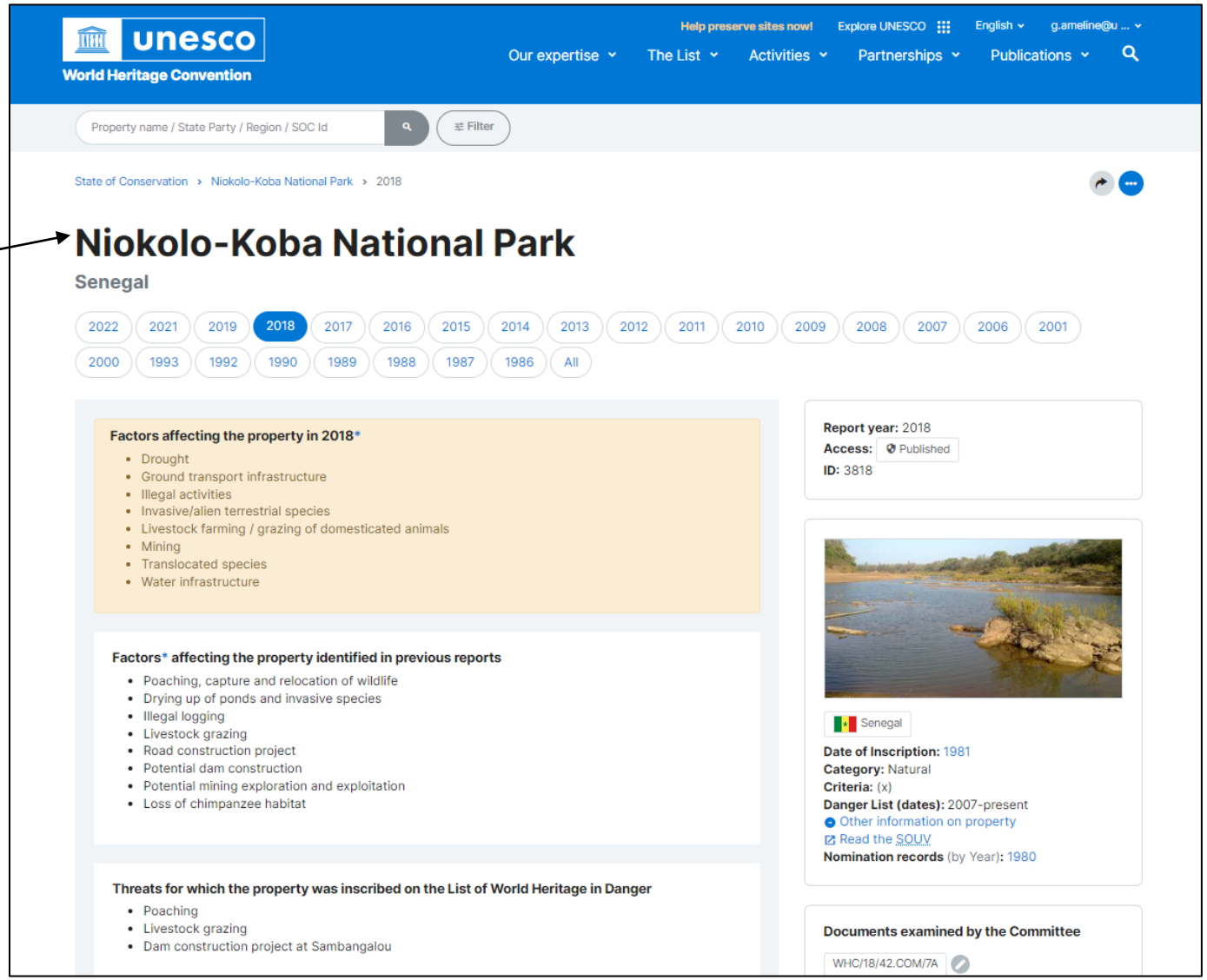


II. Monitoring and conservation related documentation and tools

Information System on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties: **Demo presentation**







II. Monitoring and conservation related documentation and tools

Information System on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties: **Demo presentation**

International Assistance: requests for the property until 2018

Requests approved: 9 (from 1982-2017)
Total amount approved : 206,799 USD

2017	Mise à jour du plan de gestion du Parc national de ... (Approved)	29,674 USD
2015	Dénombrement de la grande et moyenne faune mammalienne, ... (Approved)	30,000 USD
2004	Extension du Site du PM du Niokolo Koba (Senegal) à la ... (Approved)	9,984 USD
2002	Derby Eland Monitoring Programme (Approved)	29,296 USD
1991	Purchase of 2 all-terrain vehicles to improve ... (Approved)	45,000 USD
1990	Consultancy services for environmental and ... (Approved)	20,000 USD
1986	Additional cost of radios ordered in 1985 for ... (Approved)	6,196 USD
1985	Purchase of 4 portable radios for protection programme ... (Approved)	9,618 USD
1982	Vehicles, camping equipment and radio communication ... (Approved)	27,031 USD

Missions to the property until 2018**

2001, 2007 and 2010: Joint World Heritage Centre / IUCN Reactive Monitoring missions. 2015: IUCN Reactive Monitoring mission

2015	Rapport de la mission UICN au Parc national du Niokolo-Koba (Sénégal), 10-17 mai 2015
2015	Rapport de mission: Inventaire de la grande faune du Parc National du Niokolo Koba au Sénégal, 7-20 avril 2015
2011	IUCN mission report, Niokolo-Koba National Park
2010	Rapport de mission, Parc national de Niokolo-Koba (Sénégal), 4 - 11 mai 2010
2007	Mission Report UNESCO/IUCN Joint Monitoring Mission to Niokola-Koba National Park, Senegal, 21-27 January 2007
2001	Rapport de la mission de suivi conjointe Centre du patrimoine mondial/l'UICN au Parc national du Niokolo Koba, ...
1992	IUCN / Senegal National Park Service / University of Dakar joint mission report, Niokolo-Koba National Park
1989	World Bank mission report, Niokolo-Koba National Park

II. Monitoring and conservation related documentation and tools

Information System on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties: **Demo presentation**

Analysis and Conclusion by World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in 2018

The State Party continues to make efforts to implement the corrective measures. Progress has been achieved in the intensified protection project area implemented by the National Parks Directorate (DPN), PMC and the NGO Panthera, covering the south-eastern part of the property. The introduction of the SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) system to monitor the efforts of the patrols is also warmly welcomed.

The State Party's report indicates positive tendencies of the species monitored by the bio-monitoring programme. However, as the database only covers two years, more time is required to confirm these tendencies, both as regards the number of flagship species and their rates of encounter. Also, more data must be collected to confirm the downward trend in poaching. It is recommended that the State Party provide SMART data on the coverage of the property by the patrols.

Although the ongoing updating of the Management Plan, thanks to International Assistance, is welcomed, as of April 2018, activities foreseen for this activity have not yet been initiated. Therefore, it is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to ensure that this updating be carried out without delay.

The potential impacts of the Mako gold prospection project remain a serious concern. The efforts of the State Party and the PMC to ensure a monitoring of the impacts have been noted; however, no report resulting from this monitoring has been submitted by the State Party, except hydrological data concerning the quantity of water in the River Gambia. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a monitoring report, including an analysis of the data on the quantity and quality of the surface and underground water above and below the Mako gold prospection project. It is also appropriate to recall that the Committee had expressed its serious concern as regards the potential impacts of the project on the chimpanzee populations within the concession. It is therefore recommended that the Committee also request the State Party to provide specific and detailed data on the monitoring of the chimpanzees (habitat utilization, areas of vital importance, etc.), to enable an assessment of the actual impacts of the project on this species, as well as an evaluation of the efficacy of the conservation areas created outside the property with a view to mitigating these impacts and improving the conservation of the species.

The current studies to determine the inter-connectivity of the River Gambia and the ponds located in the property are an important step towards assessing the impacts of the Sambangalou dam project on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property. This project remains a potential threat to the property and must be the subject of a detailed Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), that includes and evaluation of the impacts on the OUV of the property, in conformity with the IUCN`s World Heritage Advice Note: environmental assessment. It is further recommended that the Committee request the State Party to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of the development of this project.

It is regrettable that no information has been provided concerning the closure of the basalt quarry at Mansadala, foreseen for 2018. It is recommended that the Committee request the State Party to rapidly confirm whether the closure of the quarry has been effected as foreseen, recalling that this date has already been postponed several times.

Despite the progress accomplished, more time and efforts are required to ensure that the positive tendencies are maintained for at least three consecutive years, as stipulated by the Desired state of conservation for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR). Consequently, it is recommended that the Committee maintain the property on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Decisions adopted by the Committee in 2018

Adopted | Draft Decision

42 COM 7A.55

Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal) (N 153)

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/18/42.COM/7A,
2. Recalling Decision **41 COM 7A.16**, adopted during its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),
3. Warmly welcomes the continued efforts of the State Party in the implementation of the corrective measures, in particular those concerning the anti-poaching mechanism, the ongoing updating of the Management Plan of the property and the implementation of an ecological monitoring system, the combat against invasive species, the development of grazing areas and the reduction of livestock encroachment in the property, as well as the gradual participation of the communities in the management of the property, and requests the State Party to continue its efforts;
4. Takes note of the positive tendencies of the species monitored by the bio-monitoring programme but considers that the data base must be extended before these tendencies are confirmed, and notes a reduced level of poaching;
5. Reiterates its concerns concerning the impact of the Mako gold prospection project on the OUV of the property and takes note of the efforts of the State Party and the Pétowal Mining Company (PMC) to ensure a monitoring of these impacts, but regrets that no monitoring report on the quality of the waters has been provided and also requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre a monitoring report, including an analysis of the data on the quantity and quality of the surface and underground waters above and below the project;
6. Recalling its deep concern as regards the potential impacts of the Mako gold prospection project on the chimpanzees, further requests the State Party to provide specific and detailed data on the monitoring of this species, to enable an evaluation of the actual impacts of the project, as well as an assessment of the efficacy of the conservation areas created outside the property with a view to mitigating these impacts and improving the conservation of this species;
7. Also considers that the current studies to determine the inter-connectivity of the waters of the River Gambia and the ponds located in the property are an important step towards providing an assessment of the impacts of the Sambangalou dam project on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property and reiterates its request to the State Party to develop an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the project, in conformity with the IUCN`s World Heritage Advice Note: environmental assessment, and to keep the World Heritage Centre informed of its progress, in accordance with Paragraph 172 of the *Operational Guidelines*, as requested for many years;
8. Further requests the State Party to confirm, without delay, whether the closure of the basalt quarry at Mansadala has been effected as foreseen, recalling that the closure date has already been postponed several times;
9. Finally, requests the State Party to submit to the World Heritage Centre, by **1 February 2019**, an updated report on the state of conservation of the property and the implementation of the above, for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 43rd session in 2019;
10. **Decides to retain Niokolo-Koba National Park (Senegal) on the List of World Heritage in Danger.**

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World Heritage Convention