2nd Gansu Dialogue – Sustainable Tourism along the Silk Road

24 - 29 March 2024

Lanzhou, Gansu Province, China







Introduction to the UNESCO Visitor Management Assessment & Strategy Tool (VMAST)

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World Heritage Catalysis

https://www.whcatalysis.org





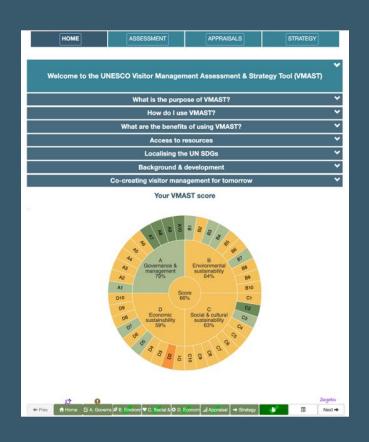
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VMAST



- UNESCOs Visitor Management Assessment & Strategy Tool

A tool helping WH site management authorities improve visitor management for heritage protection and localisation of the UNSDGs



Goal A

Effective governance & visitor management protecting heritage values

Goal B

Contribution to environmental sustainability, climate change mitigation & adaptation

Goal C

Contribution to inclusive social development & cultural sustainability

Goal D

Contribution to inclusive & sustainable economic development

Monitoring

> Improved understanding

Budgeted activities

> Feasible ambitions

Communication

> Improved outreach

Capacity development

> Strengthened capacities

Collaboration

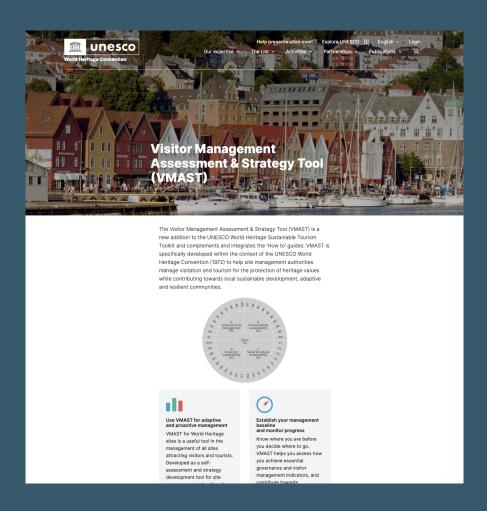
> Increased impact





A tool ahead of time



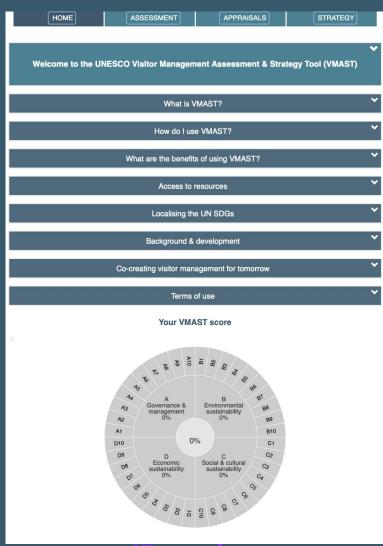




- **★** Complementary
- ★ Voluntary
- ★ For internal use (not reporting)
- ★ Proactive, responsive management
- ★ Free
- **★** Data

VMAST





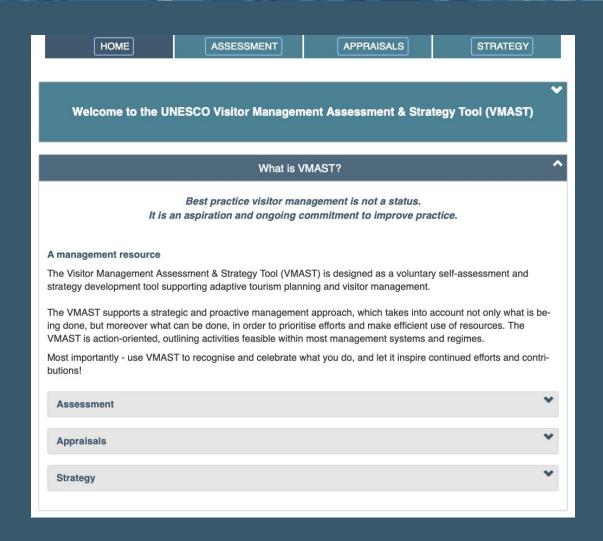
HOME	ASSESSMENT	APPRAISALS	STRATEGY	
A. Governance & management			D. Economic sustainability	

- >> VMAST "wheel"
- Navigation



What is VMAST?





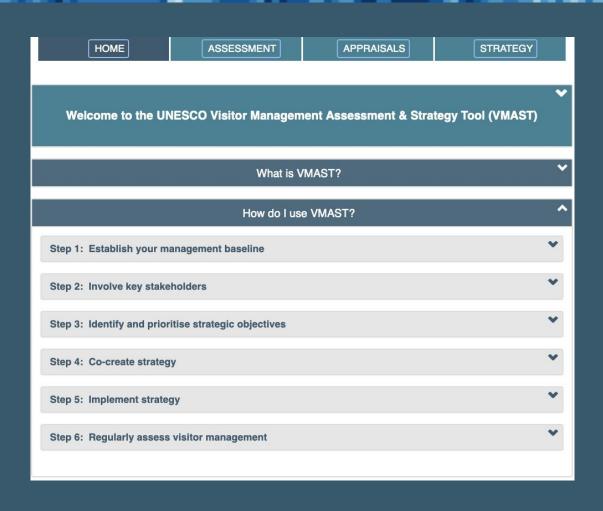
- ★ Visitor management self-assessment
- ★ Strategy development

- ★ Intuitive
- ★ Cost efficient



How do I use VMAST?





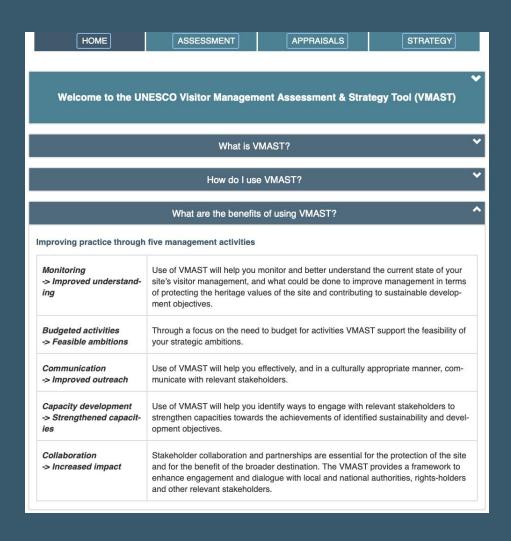
- 1. Baseline*
- 2. Involve key stakeholders
- 3. Identify and prioritise strategic objectives
- 4. Co-create strategy
- 5. Implement strategy
- 6. Monitor progress





What are the benefits of VMAST?



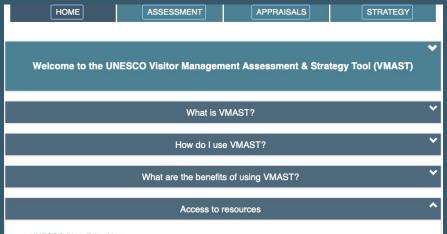


- a. Monitoring
 - -> improve understanding
- a. Budgeted activities
 - -> feasible ambitions
- a. Communication
 - -> improved outreach
- a. Capacity development
 - -> strengthened capacities
- a. Collaboration
 - -> increased impact



Resources





UNESCO 'How To' guides

UNESCO World Heritage Centre has developed a set of 'How To' guides for managing tourism. These easily accessible resources are focused on best practice approaches to sustainable economic development through tourism. The first of their kind, the 'How To' resources offer direction and guidance to managers of World Heritage tourism destinations and other stakeholders to help identify the most suitable solutions for circumstances in their local environments and aid in developing general know-how for the management of each destination. There are references and links to relevant 'How To' guides throughout VMAST.

Policy guidelines: Defining the relationship between World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism

Based on the report of the international workshop on Advancing Sustainable Tourism at Natural and Cultural Heritag Sites (Mogao, China, September 2009), the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session adopted the policy orientations which define the relationship between World Heritage and sustainable tourism (Decision 34 COM 5F.2)

UNESCO World Heritage & Sustainable Tourism Resource Library

Global good practice examples mirroring the UNESCO 'How To' guides.

World Heritage Publications

Publications issued and/or endorsed by UNESCO.

VMAST objectives

UNESCOs

How-To Guides

PEOPLE PLACES PLACES



Welcome to the UNESCO Visitor Management Assessment & Strategy Tool (VMAST)

Localising the UN SDGs

VMAST objectives

+

UN SDGs

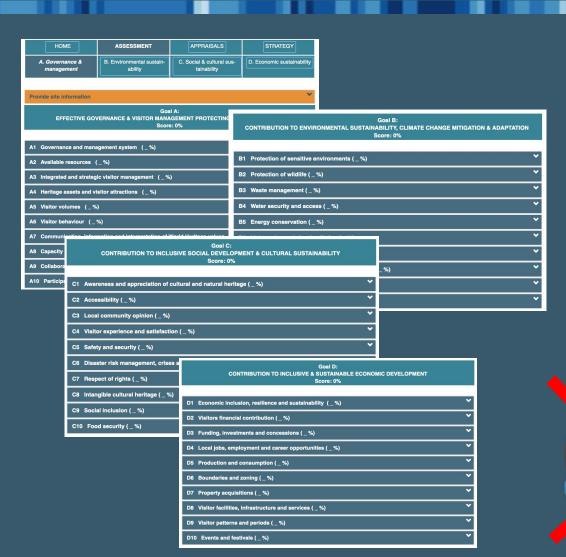






Bringing complexity onto the table





4 GOALS (A-D)

40 Objectives

> 200 success/target indicators





Governance & management



HOME	ASSESSMENT	APPRAISALS	STRATEGY			
A. Governance & management	B. Environmental sustain- ability	C. Social & cultural sus- tainability	D. Economic sustainability			
Provide site information	Dravida cita information					
Goal A: EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE & VISITOR MANAGEMENT PROTECTING HERITAGE VALUES Score: 0%						
A1 Governance and management system (_%)						
A2 Available resources (_%)						
A3 Integrated and strategic visitor management (_%)						
A4 Heritage assets and visitor attractions (_%)						
A5 Visitor volumes (_%)						
A6 Visitor behaviour (_%)						
A7 Communication, information and interpretation of World Heritage values (_%)						
A8 Capacity development (_%)						
A9 Collaboration with the tourism sector (_%)			*			
A10 Participatory governance (_%)						

GOAL A:

EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE & VISITOR MANAGEMENT PROTECTING HERITAGE VALUES



Environmental sustainability



HOME	ASSESSMENT	APPRAISAL	STRATEGY			
A. Governance & mana gement	B. Environmental sustain- ability	C. Social & cultural sust ainability	D. Economic sustainabili ty			
CONTRIBUTION TO ENV	Goal B: CONTRIBUTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION Score: 0%					
B1 Protection of sensitive	environments (_ %)		•			
B2 Protection of wildlife (_%)		•			
B3 Waste management (_	%)		•			
B4 Water security and acc	ess (_ %)		•			
B5 Energy conservation (_%)		•			
B6 Light, noise and visual	pollution (_ %)		•			
B7 Low-impact travel and transport (_%)						
B8 Carbon footprint (greenhouse gas emissions) (_ %)						
B9 Climate change adapta	ition (_ %)		*			
B10 Environmental risks (_%)						

GOAL B:

CONTRIBUTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION



Social & cultural sustainability



HOME	ASSESSMENT	APPRAISALS	STRATEGY	
A. Governance & mana gement	B. Environmental sustai nability	C. Social & cultural sus- tainability	D. Economic sustainabili ty	
CONTRIBUTION		il C: /ELOPMENT & CULTURAL S e: 0%	SUSTAINABILITY	
C1 Awareness and appreci	ation of cultural and natura	I heritage (_ %)	•	
C2 Accessibility (_%)			•	
C3 Local community opinion	on (_ %)		•	
C4 Visitor experience and	satisfaction (_ %)		•	
C5 Safety and security (_'	%)		*	
C6 Disaster risk manageme	ent, crises and emergency r	response (_ <u>%</u>)	*	
C7 Respect of rights (_%)				
C8 Intangible cultural herit	3 (2)			
C9 Social inclusion (_%)	C9 Social inclusion (_ %)			
C10 Food security (_%)	C10 Food security (_%)			

GOAL C:

CONTRIBUTION TO INCLUSIVE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT & CULTURAL SUSTAINABILITY



Economic sustainability



HOME	ASSESSMENT	APPRAISALS	STRATEGY			
A. Governance & mana gement	B. Environmental sustai nability	C. Social & cultural sust ainability	D. Economic sustainability			
CONTRIBU	Goal D: CONTRIBUTION TO INCLUSIVE & SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Score: 0%					
			~			
D1 Economic inclusion, re	silience and sustainability (_%)				
D2 Visitors financial contri	bution (_ %)		•			
D3 Funding, investments a	and concessions (_ %)		•			
D4 Local jobs, employmen	D4 Local jobs, employment and career opportunities (_ %)					
D5 Production and consum	D5 Production and consumption (_ %)					
D6 Boundaries and zoning	D6 Boundaries and zoning (_ %)					
D7 Property acquisitions (D7 Property acquisitions (_%)					
D8 Visitor facilities, infrastructure and services (_ %)						
D9 Visitor patterns and per	riods (_ %)		•			
D10 Events and festivals (D10 Events and festivals (_ %)					

GOAL D:

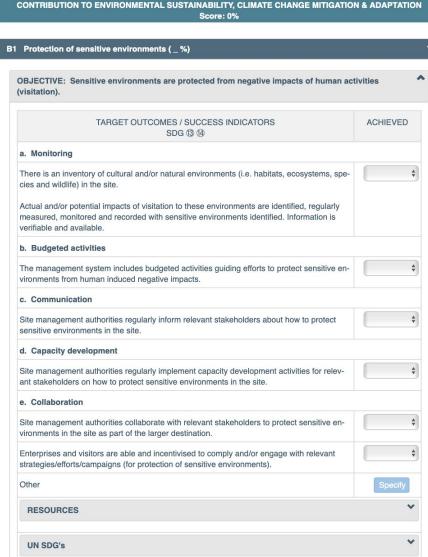
CONTRIBUTION TO INCLUSIVE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



	HOME	ASSESSMENT	APPRAISAL	STRATEGY
A.	Governance & mana gement	B. Environmental sustain- ability	C. Social & cultural sust ainability	D. Economic sustainabil

Goal B:

CONTRIBUTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY. CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION Score: 0%





Each objective set out what you can do through:

- a. Monitoring
- b. Budgeted activities
- c. Communication
- d. Capacity development
- e. Collaboration
- Resources
- **UN SDGs**



	НОМЕ	ASSESSMENT	APPRAISAL	STRATEGY
A.	Governance & mana gement	B. Environmental sustain- ability	C. Social & cultural sust ainability	D. Economic sustainabili ty

Goal B:

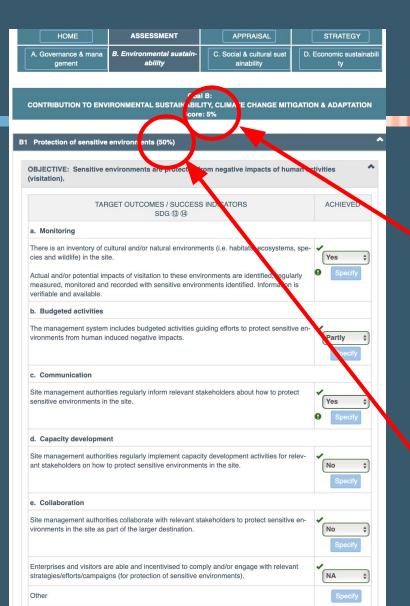
CONTRIBUTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION Score: 0%

B1 Protection of sensitive environments (_%) OBJECTIVE: Sensitive environments are protected from negative impacts of human activities (visitation). TARGET OUTCOMES / SUCCESS INDICATORS ACHIEVED SDG (3) (14) a. Monitoring There is an inventory of cultural and/or natural environments (i.e. habitats, ecosystems, species and wildlife) in the site. Actual and/or potential impacts of visitation to these environments are identified, regularly measured, monitored and recorded with sensitive environments identified. Information is verifiable and available. b. Budgeted activities The management system includes budgeted activities guiding efforts to protect sensitive environments from human induced negative impacts. c. Communication Site management authorities regularly inform relevant stakeholders about how to protect sensitive environments in the site. d. Capacity development Site management authorities regularly implement capacity development activities for relevant stakeholders on how to protect sensitive environments in the site. e. Collaboration Site management authorities collaborate with relevant stakeholders to protect sensitive environments in the site as part of the larger destination. Enterprises and visitors are able and incentivised to comply and/or engage with relevant strategies/efforts/campaigns (for protection of sensitive environments). RESOURCES **UN SDG's**



RESOURCES

UN SDG's





unesco

Score:
Objective

(eg 5%)

Score: Target

(eg 50%)



	nanagement contributes to local jobs, employment and career opport	tunities.	
	TARGET OUTCOMES / SUCCESS INDICATORS SDG ① ⑤ ⑧	ACHIEV	/ED
a. Monitoring			
	nt created through the site management are regularly monitored and rifiable and available. Data collected relates to:		\$
i. Number of people	with permanent employment through site management authorities.	-	+
ii. Gender balance (p	provide % of female employees). ⑤	- %	+
iii. Number of people organisation.	with part time employment / time limited contracts in site management	-	+
b. Budgeted activit	ties		
Site management au opportunities. ①	uthorities make efforts to create employment, procurement and/or career		‡
c. Communication			
Site management au and career opportun	athorities regularly inform relevant stakeholders about job, employment, ities in the site. $\ensuremath{\textcircled{1}}$		*
d. Capacity develo	pment		
	uthorities regularly implement capacity development activities for relev- ntributing to skills that increase job, employment, procurement and ca-		*
e. Collaboration			
	uthorities collaborate with relevant stakeholders to increase local job, career opportunities in the site as part of the larger destination. ① ⑧		*
	d and/or incentivised to contribute local jobs, employment and career ample by offering employment, apprenticeships, internships.		*
Other		Spec	cify
RESOURCES			^
LINESCO 'How	/ To' guide 4: Engaging local communities and businesses		
Section Control of the Control of th	This guide will tell you how to reach out and engage with local businesses munity in a dialogue explaining the mutual benefit that comes with making sustainable.		
UN SDG's			^
	iverty		^



An emerging methodology

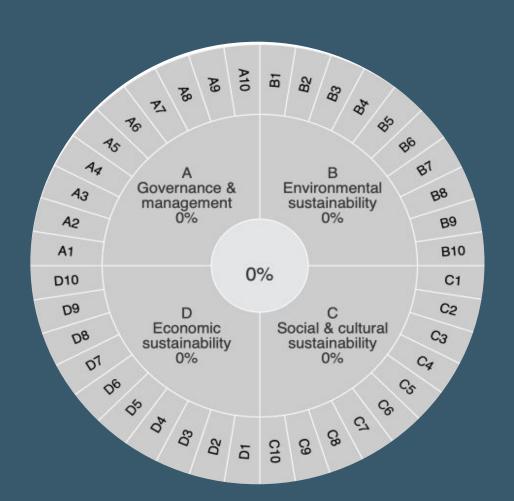
Relevant resources

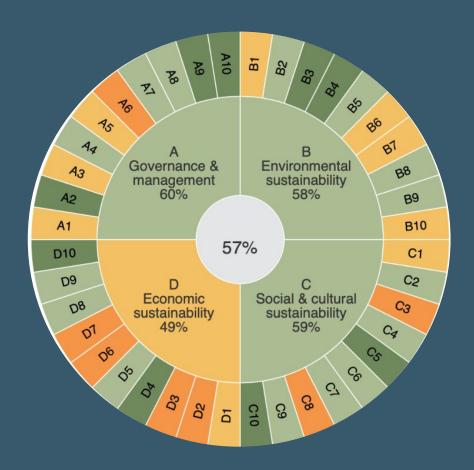
Relevant UN SDGs

No fixed method (but recommended that first time use is a full assessment)

VMAST

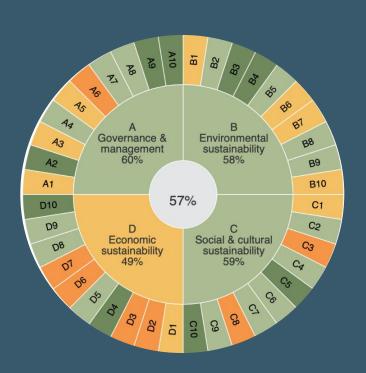






Interpretation

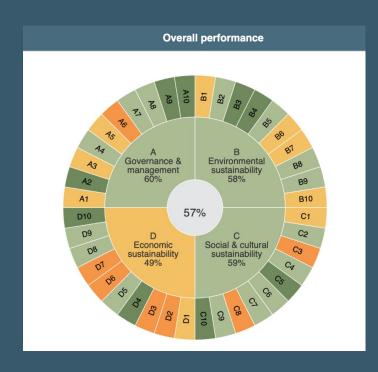




Colour	Response	Percentage	Interpretation
	Yes	71% - 100%	Please share your good practices.
		51% - 70%	Well done!
	Partly	31% - 50%	Keep up the good efforts and explore how to improve.
		1% - 30%	You are on to something. Look for inspiration in resources and among peers.
	No	0%	Here is an opportunity to make change.
	NA / No answer	-	

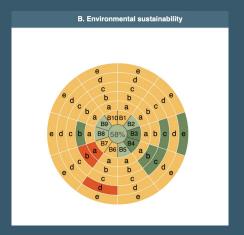
Appraisals & interpretation











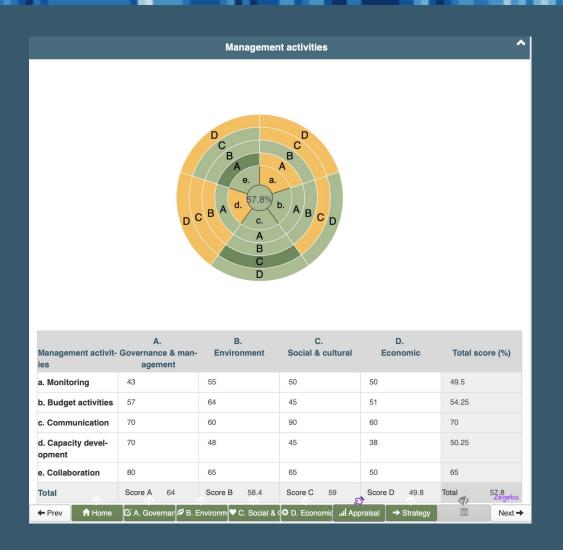


Overall appraisal and appraisals for each goal



Appraisals & interpretation

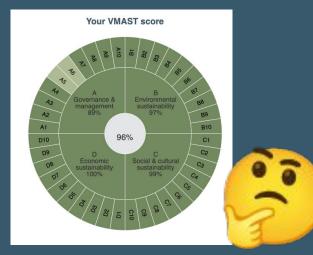


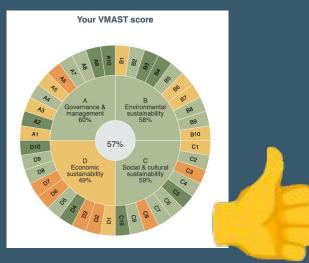


- a. Monitoring
- b. Budgeted activities
- c. Communication
- d. Capacity development
- e. Collaboration

"Best practice" & VMAST scores







Best practice is not a status!
It is an ongoing commitment
to improve practice!

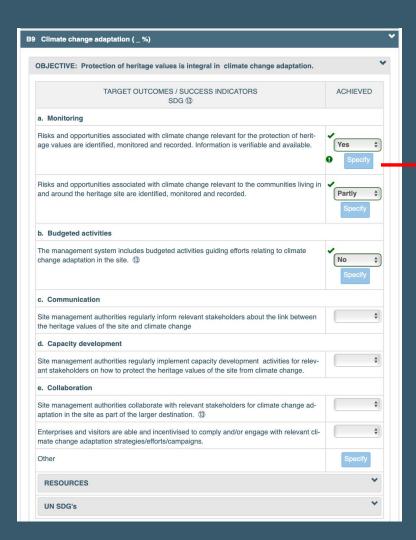
Use VMAST to

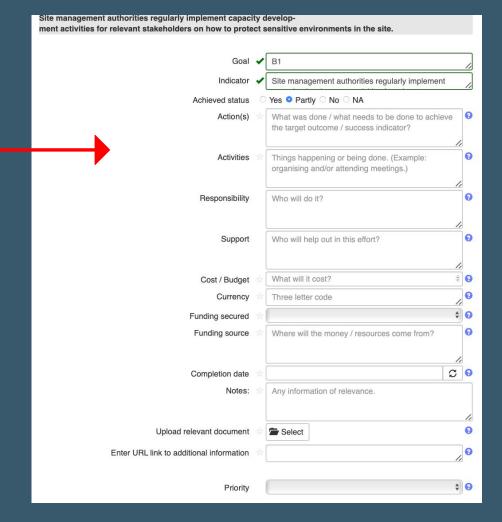
- identify where you are doing well
- where there are opportunities to improve
- demonstrate progress



Assessment & strategy







Tanslation







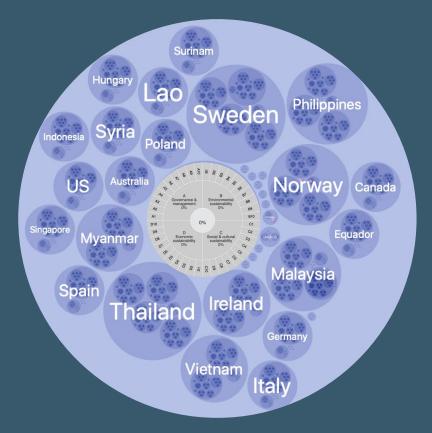


An emerging community of practice

VMAST for local collaboration



VMAST as a framework for global collaboration



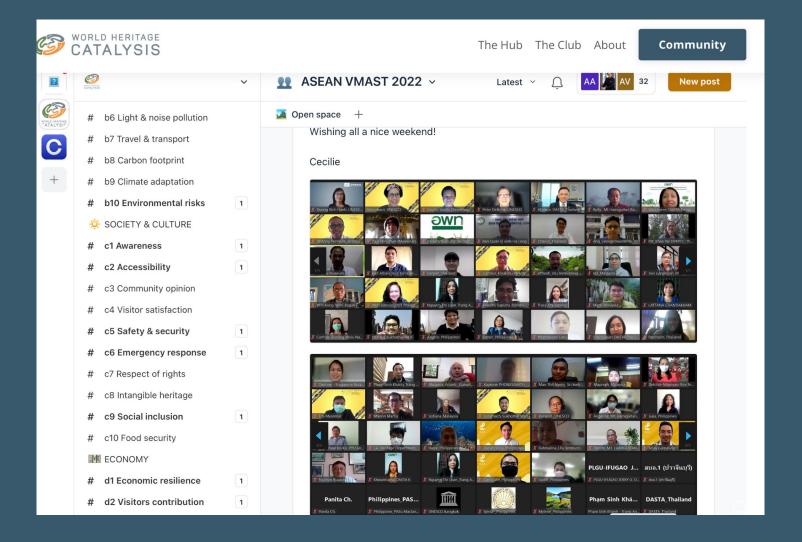
VMAST as a framework for connecting practice





vmast.net





VMAST supporting transformative practice

VMAST

Energy production: Renewable energy resilience **Ecosystem services** tourism serving communities Assessments and mapping exposing complexity and distributed and collaborative governance opportunities values based success indicators community empowerment **Practice** Sustainable **Extractive** Green Generative Restorative Regenerative a linear, growth based approach - Contributing to the - Restoring social & ecological - Enabling social & ecological 13 CLIMATE ACTION

exploitation of commons vulnerability communities serving tourism top down and exclusive growth based success indicators community disempowerment

Energy consumption:

Fossil energy Ecosystem services



local community

systems to a healthy state

Practice

systems to evolve

a regenerative circular approach

stewardship of commons

THANK YOU!

Cecilie Smith-Christensen

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