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ANNUAL REPORT 2000

NORDIC WORLD HERITAGE OFFICE

INTRODUCTION

In May 1999 a revised Agreement between UNESCO and the Norwegian Government was signed, extending the mandate of the Nordic World Heritage Office until 2001. This agreement and the Strategic Priorities NWHO 1999-2001, adopted by the Nordic World Heritage Office Governing Board in January 2000, form the framework for the work of the NWHO. The Strategic Priorities document focuses on:

- I. World Heritage Centre's visions and NWHO's relation to these visions
- II. Strategic analysis
- III. Strategic choices – decisions

The Strategic analysis highlights the central challenges identified in the Global Strategy, adopted by UNESCO's General Conference in 1999. These are reflected in the Strategic choices which defines NWHO's role as a clearing house and partner in implementing the WH Convention, as broker between recipient countries and financial and co-operation possibilities and partner in developing UNESCO/World Heritage's system for emergency assistance. The Strategic choices are made explicit in a Work Plan. The NWHO Work Plan covers 8 specific thematic choices presented in this report by the figures I-VIII:

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES:

The NWHO Annual Report for 2000 is based on the NWHO Workplan for 2000-2001, adopted by the NWHO Governing Board in January 2000. The Work Plan is implemented in co-operation with an appointed NWHO Working Group.

I Function as a clearing house/information channel for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention

The general target is to ensure that the Nordic interest groups are updated on significant resolutions, decisions and general information concerning the UNESCO World Heritage Convention of 1972 and to raise awareness of the general public about the Convention and the contribution the Nordic countries are making to this work.

ACTIVITIES:

NWHO's Home Page on the Internet has been updated in close co-operation with the Nordic Working Group. The Home Page presents special links to presentations of Nordic World Heritage sites, tentative areas, the NWHO Strategy and Mission Statement and to important institutions such as the World Heritage Centre, the Convention etc. The NWHO has introduced a Newsletter addressed to the Nordic site managers. The Newsletter of August 2000 focussed specially on the World Heritage Bureau meeting held in Paris in June 2000.

A Nordic Site Managers meeting was held in Luleå (Sweden) in September which focused on the subject of tourism. At this meeting, NWHO shared its experiences from our joint project with UNESCO, on models for Sustainable Tourism (see activity V).

II Organising regional and thematic meetings in order to develop harmonised tentative lists.

The general target is, as part of UNESCO's follow up of the Global Strategy, to contribute to focusing on underrepresented areas from the Nordic countries and sub-Saharan Africa.

ACTIVITIES:

The Nordic Council of Ministers' report (Nord 1996:31) identified possible Nordic natural sites and cultural landscapes for nomination on the World Heritage List. Currently only the Swedish area of Lapponia was inscribed on the World Heritage List. As a follow-up to this report a meeting with all the representatives from the relevant Ministries in Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland has been organised in Copenhagen, on 30 October 2000. The meeting concluded that all the Nordic countries are giving the updating of their tentative lists high priority. Updated tentative lists from the Nordic countries can, together with their contributions to nomination processes in under-representative countries, serve as a basis for discussing the implementation of the Global Strategy.

Africa's heritage is strongly underrepresented on the World Heritage List in particular with regard to cultural landscapes. Currently, the Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the Convention do not identify criteria which cover Africa's particular understanding of cultural landscapes in connection with the concepts of integrity and authenticity. An expert meeting on Cultural Landscapes in an African context was held in Great Zimbabwe in May 2000, funded by World Heritage Fund and the NWHO. Three recommendations were adopted. Two addressed the States Parties and the Scientific Committee (in which NWHO is a member): Recommendations on authenticity, integrity and related concepts and Recommendations on the importance of Local Communities in the Sustainable Heritage Management Process. The third one addressed the World Heritage Committee underlining that the issues discussed in an African context could be applicable to living cultures all over the world.

III Contribute to establishing permanent monitoring/periodic reporting systems

The aim of this activity is to develop a computer-based monitoring and reporting system for "Periodic Reporting on the Application of the World Heritage Convention" in line with the Convention's Article 29 and the Operational Guidelines, paragraph 68-79, including the Periodic Reporting "Format" and "Explanatory Notes".

ACTIVITIES:

The NWHO has, in close co-operation with UNEP/GRID-Arendal, designed a draft pilot project in order to establish the framework for a technical tool for periodic reporting of application of the Convention by the State Party and the state of conservation of specific World Heritage properties. This tool will be based on software suitable for Internet communication. The project was co-ordinated with the World Heritage Centre in June 2000. The project is funded jointly by UNESCO, the Nordic States Parties and the NWHO. The pilot project will be implemented in October 2000 and in the beginning of the year 2001. It is based on the experiences of two countries Sweden and Ghana which will form the basis for these case studies. A user-friendly software, templates and guidelines with Format and

Explanatory Notes, with the capacity of publishing reports on the Internet and the production of comparable reports from States Parties and regions will be presented in May 2001.

IV Assist in the preparation of new nominations from underrepresented areas

The objective is to contribute to the implementation of the Global Strategy for a more balanced World Heritage List through supporting the preparation of nominations in developing countries. The NWHO's participation and support to the preparation of new nominations is dependent upon requests by the States Parties and World Heritage Centre.

ACTIVITIES:

The NWHO has previously given support to two nominations processes in Africa (Robben Island/South Africa and Zanzibar/Tanzania). In January 2000 a contract between the World Heritage Centre and the NWHO was signed and NWHO provided technical assistance to the National Museums of Kenya (NMK) in order to prepare a nomination for the Swahili town Lamu on the Kenyan coast. Terms of Reference for the task was prepared and accepted by the parties (NMK and NWHO) and the work was carried out with a workshop in Lamu in February, and two follow-up sessions in Kenya in April and May. As a result, Lamu's nomination was finalised as planned before the 1st of July 2000. Lamu is the first cultural site in Kenya to be nominated for the World Heritage List. The technical support has therefore included workshops/discussions with all governmental levels and has comprised advice related to all main issues of preparatory nomination work.

In February 2000 NWHO received a request from Morocco concerning quality assurance for a planned nomination for the coastal town of Essaouira. Morocco has had to postpone this nomination, and therefore NWHO has not been working with the site until now.

V Support the development of models for sustainable tourism in World Heritage areas

The general target is to further a dialogue and joint action between interest groups from the public and private sectors responsible for World Heritage sites and tourism.

ACTIVITIES:

The NWHO Report on "Sustainable Tourism and Cultural Heritage" was successfully launched at an international Travel and Tourism Fair in Oslo in January 2000. As the first overview of its kind it has attracted considerable attention in different parts of the world and has been widely distributed. As an example it may be mentioned that the World Bank has added the report to its Web side.

The project "Culture, Heritage Management and Tourism: Models for Cooperation Among Stakeholders" is jointly run by UNESCO/Bangkok, NWHO and Directorate for Cultural Heritage, Norway and has been financed by The Government of Norway and UNESCO through the World Heritage Fund. Phase 1 included mobilisation of stakeholders, introduction and start-up of case studies at 9 locations of which Norway is financing 5 (in countries prioritised by NORAD). Assistance for case studies teams has been provided. Phase 2 of this project, under the heading "Regional workshop to formulate Models", was successfully implemented in Bhaktapur, Nepal in April 2000. The responsible teams from 9 countries in Southeast-Asia, had prepared and presented their case studies in a satisfactory manner. All 9

towns are either on the World Heritage List or in the process of being nominated. Based on comments and advice given by a number of international experts and other participants, action plans were prepared and presented by each of the teams responsible at the end of the workshop. For the project management an impressive network of organisations, institutions and individuals working with different aspects of cultural heritage management and tourism has been created. The problems encountered have been minor, but the challenges ahead require technical assistance and follow up by the project management UNESCO/RACAP and NWHO.

VI Contribute to develop methodologies on management for historic environment

The general target is to contribute to the development of methodologies on management, evaluation and environment impact assessments for the historic environment with special focus on historic cities. This includes the elaboration of a strategies that furthers the integration of cultural values within a broader environmental perspective for a more sustainable perspective.

ACTIVITIES:

The background for this project was a joint initiative from the World Bank and UNESCO to develop “Urban Design Guidelines” for historic cities. The NWHO contribution to this project has been to initiate and implement the project “Sustainable Historic Cities”. The project is based on analytical studies on central topics and concepts with reference to the urban challenge and the historic city in a world of transformation. It has involved four historic cities in the Baltic States and Nordic Countries as case studies. NWHO has succeeded in financing a publication of the project. The final report has been rewritten for publication enlightening issues such as contemporary development trends influencing the historic environment, the overlapping fields of sustainable development and heritage protection, general and place specific recommendations for improvement of the management of historic cities seen in a sustainable perspective, sustainable indicators and cultural values, urban sites authenticity and/or integrity etc. The report will be published at the break of the years 00/01.

The NWHO has contributed to a number of seminars on the subject of “Integrated Territorial and Urban Conservation” arranged by ICCROM. NWHO has further on supported the publication of the report “Conservation and Urban Sustainable Development, a Theoretical Framework”, Recife, Brazil. NWHO was invited as one out of four key note speakers in an one week international workshop in Malta in May 2000, arranged by the World Heritage Centre and ICCROM. The workshop was arranged as part of the design of a Management Manual for World Heritage Sites initiated by the World Heritage Committee. The Malta meeting had special focus on historic cities.

VII Clarify opportunities for emergency assistance

The general target is to identify the Nordic countries’ ability to offer emergency assistance to other countries if cultural and natural heritage is seriously under threat.

ACTIVITIES:

The situation is being examined, and each of the Nordic Countries has handed in their contemporary overview. The state of art is that Denmark, Finland and Sweden has no overview as Norway has a draft for emergency assistance on the natural side.

VIII Mediate between beneficiary countries and bi-and multilateral financing and co-operative opportunities

The general target is to contribute to ensuring that enquiries about financial support or professional co-operation from States Parties to the Convention, developing countries, are evaluated by bi- and multilateral donors.

ACTIVITIES:

In a pilot project phase 1996-99, NWHO together with the Norwegian Development Co-operation (NORAD) arranged a meeting between the Nordic aid authorities (DANIDA, SIDA and FINIDA) and the respective responsible administrative authorities, in order to discuss the possibility to incorporate the World Heritage Convention in their development strategies. (Currently this is only the case in Norway).

The Directorate for Cultural Heritage, Norway and NWHO have, further on, developed the strategy document "UNESCO's World Heritage Convention (1972) as part of the Norwegian Development Co-operation". This document has been distributed to the other Nordic States Parties.