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WHC-01/CONF.208/INF.17  
Paris, 22 October 2001  
Original: English

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL  
ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD  
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-fifth session

Helsinki, Finland  
11 – 16 December 2001

**Information Document: Regional training Course on the Application of the World Heritage Convention and its Role in Sustainable Development and Tourism in the Caribbean, Roseau, Dominica, 24 September - 3 October 2001**

In the framework of the *Global Strategy for a Representative and Balanced World Heritage List* and the *Global Strategy Action Plan for the Caribbean 2000-2002* a *Regional Training Course on the Application of the World Heritage Convention and its Role in Sustainable Development and Tourism in the Caribbean* was held in Roseau, Dominica, from 24 September to 3 October 2001. It was financed with extra-budgetary funds from the government of Italy.

The principle objectives of the training course were to increase the capacity of States in the Caribbean to implement the World Heritage Convention, to increase the knowledge in the Caribbean of the aims, objectives, principles and operations of the World Heritage Convention and to explore its relevance in the Caribbean context, mainly in relation to sustainable development and tourism. Another objective was to provide a forum for networking and regional collaboration among States Parties, NGOs and experts from the Caribbean. The course had immediate positive repercussions, such as the formulation of recommendations in the framework of *The Dominica Document 2001* (Annex I), creation of a Caribbean network and of the Dominica UNESCO Heritage Organization (DUHO).

**Action required:** The Committee may wish to take note of the report and the recommendations contained therein.

## 1. Background

Since 1996, the World Heritage Centre has given particular attention to the Caribbean sub-region in the context of the *Global Strategy for a Representative and Balanced World Heritage List*. Over the years, the various activities were integrated into a *Global Strategy Action Plan for the Caribbean 2000-2002*. The Action Plan includes a component on capacity building in the region for which extra-budgetary funding was obtained from the government of Italy (US\$ 125,000). In this context, a *Regional Training Course on the Application of the World Heritage Convention and its Role in Sustainable Development and Tourism in the Caribbean* was held in Roseau, Dominica from 24 September to 3 October 2001.

The course was designed at a preparatory workshop that took place in Dominica in January 2001 and that was financed under a World Heritage Preparatory Assistance requested by the Government of Dominica (US\$ 15,000, budget 2000).

## 2. Preparation and organization

The lead in the preparation and organization of the course was taken by the World Heritage Centre. The Adviser for Culture for the Caribbean was closely involved throughout and frequent contacts were maintained with the Dominica counterparts.

## 3. The training course

The principle objectives of the training course were to increase the capacity of states in the Caribbean to implement the World Heritage Convention, to increase the knowledge in the Caribbean of the aims, objectives, principles and operations of the World Heritage Convention and to explore its relevance in the Caribbean context, mainly in relation to sustainable development and tourism. Another objective was to provide a forum for networking and regional collaboration among States Parties, NGOs and experts from the Caribbean.

The course had a duration of ten days that included three field exercises, nine modules and thirty-six working sessions with a number of additional special sessions. The modules were arranged as follows:

- Module I:** World Heritage in the Caribbean Context
- Module II:** Identification and Definition of World Heritage
- Module III:** Sustainability and Protection as Requirements for World Heritage Listing
- Module IV:** The Nomination Process
- Module V:** Post Inscription Process
- Module VI:** Economics and Value of Heritage
- Module VII:** Sustainable Development of Heritage and Tourism
- Module VIII:** National Action Plans for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention
- Module IX:** The Way Forward

In one of the special sessions the invited regional NGO's presented their cultural and natural heritage related work, other sessions were dedicated to the presentations by participants outlining the state of implementation of the World Heritage Convention in their countries.

The three field trips to heritage sites in Dominica, of which the trip to the Cabrits National Park and the hike across the Morne Trois Pitons National Park (inscribed on the World Heritage list since 1997) have to be highlighted, gave the participants a common base of knowledge, which later facilitated discussions on subjects such as buffer zones and (World Heritage) values as well as exercises, e.g. filling out of a nomination dossier.

There were official opening and closing ceremonies with the participation of the highest authorities of the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica and the press. A detailed Course Guide is available that outlines the structure, the contents and trainers/ presenters for each of the sessions.

46 participants were registered as follows (detailed list of participants is available):

Delegates from Caribbean States Parties	8
Delegates from Caribbean non-States Parties	2
Delegates from Caribbean Territories (other States Parties)	3
Participants from Dominica	9
Representatives of Caribbean regional organizations	5
Experts from the Caribbean region	7
<b>Sub-total participants from the Caribbean</b>	<b>34</b>
Experts from outside the Caribbean	3
Representatives of the Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM)	3
UNESCO staff	6
<b>Sub-total external participants</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Total number of participants</b>	<b>46</b>

The delegates from Caribbean States Parties, non-States Parties and overseas territories were identified by and through the respective National Commissions; those from the regional organizations and Advisory Bodies by the organizations concerned; other experts and resource persons were identified on the basis of discussions at the preparatory workshop in January 2001.

The quality and level of expertise of all participants was very high, to such an extent that the distinction between '*students*' and '*teachers*' very quickly disappeared and the '*training course*' evolved to be a '*workshop/seminar*'.

#### **4. Results and achievements**

Although a detailed analysis and evaluation of the results and achievements of the course is to be undertaken (detailed questionnaires were filled in by all participants) it can be said that the course fully met its objectives as stated above

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under point 3. To follow-up on the issues raised during the course and in order to continue the exchange of opinions the CCA representative established and hosts an e-mail based discussion group.

Representatives of States Parties and non-States Parties will develop follow-up activities within their institutions and countries. They are expected to submit reports on these activities by 15 November.

During the final days of the course participants prepared the '*Dominica Document 2001*' in which they laid down the main principles and approaches for the application of the Convention in the Caribbean and the preservation of the cultural and natural heritage in general.

## **5. Follow-up activities**

The World Heritage Centre will follow-up on the issues raised during the course by:

- Compiling all papers, presentations and reports from participants.
- Completing of the evaluation of the course (analysis of questionnaires).
- Preparing a full report of the course. Submission of the report to the participants, States Parties in the region, the World Heritage Committee and the Italian Government.
- Discussing the course and World Heritage activities in the Caribbean with Permanent Delegations, National Commissions etc,
- Publicising the course and its results on the World Heritage web-site, Newsletter and in form of a publication.
- Revising and up-dating of the *Global Strategy Action Plan for the Caribbean 2000-2002*. Propose the World Heritage Committee a budget under the *Global Strategy for a representative and Balanced World Heritage List* for the years 2002 and 2003.
- Actively participate in the electronic discussion group, which was set up in the Caribbean.
- A continued pro-active approach and particular attention to the Caribbean region in the work of the Latin America and Caribbean Unit of the World Heritage Centre.
- Identifying needs for follow-up assistance to States Parties and exploring possibilities of further financial assistance.

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## ANNEX I

### REGIONAL TRAINING COURSE ON THE APPLICATION OF THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION AND ITS ROLE IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM IN THE CARIBBEAN

(HELD IN ROSEAU, DOMINICA FROM 24 SEPTEMBER TO 3 OCTOBER, 2001)

#### THE DOMINICA DOCUMENT 2001

The Caribbean has an immense cultural and natural heritage due to a particular historical development and to specific geographical and climatic conditions and reflects the mixture of Amerindian, European, African, Asian and other peoples. As a result, a magnificent ensemble of natural and archaeological sites, cultural landscapes, historic towns and buildings, maritime heritage, as well as art works and traditions can be appreciated. The vernacular character of a great part of this legacy is precisely one of its main attributes.

Notwithstanding, these values are threatened due to their fragility, economic conditions, recurrent natural disasters, and in many cases, by a lack of understanding of the heritage as an asset in the sustainable development process.

Considering the above, the participants of the *Regional Training Course on the Application of the World Heritage Convention and its Role in Sustainable Development and Tourism in the Caribbean*, gathered in Roseau, Dominica, from 24 September to 3 October 2001, declare that:

1. The World Heritage Convention is the most universal intergovernmental legal instrument for the protection of the cultural and natural heritage of humankind. Its principles and achievements should serve as stimulus and inspiration to protect and preserve not only the sites inscribed on the World Heritage List, but also other sites whether they are of outstanding universal value or not.
2. Each of the governments and regional NGO partners in the Caribbean sub-region need to take urgent and systematic action in a coordinated manner to preserve the cultural and natural heritage of the Caribbean.
3. The preservation and conservation of Caribbean heritage as an expression of identity and a basic resource for sustainable development should be examined as a matter of priority at governmental levels within the fora of CARICOM, the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), etc., in order to generate awareness, sub-regional collaboration and concrete actions.
4. Urgent action should be taken to integrate the preservation of heritage in national policies and development strategies and to ensure inter-sectorial and inter-ministerial cooperation (cultural, natural, touristic and developmental entities, as well as, private and public sectors).
5. Intelligent territorial and urban planning should be undertaken within the national development plans in order to guarantee a balanced land use an adequate distribution of functions, the proper and fruitful orientation of tourism and other investments, the satisfaction of social needs and, in general, a prudent use of the natural and cultural environment as assets for economic and social progress.

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6. Legislation, as well as institutional and management arrangements should be reviewed, revised, if necessary, and fully applied in response to sustainable development in the Caribbean and in order to give the heritage a role in contemporary society.
  7. Risk preparedness and mitigation should be fully integrated into the management planning for cultural and natural heritage sites in order to avoid irretrievable loss of heritage in cases of disaster. Emergency response should be provided for the safeguarding of cultural and natural heritage (e.g. the volcanic eruption on the island of Montserrat).
  8. Rehabilitation projects of historic towns, monuments and/or cultural landscapes should integrate tourism, community participation, the improvement of the quality of life and other issues related to sustainable development. Demonstration projects could be developed to this effect. With this purpose, it is indispensable to actively raise funds from and collaborate with governments, private sector, foundations, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, universities, and others.
  9. Concepts of authenticity and integrity of heritage should be considered in the light of the particular social and economic conditions of the Caribbean Sub-Region.
  10. Broad education and awareness building programmes should be directed to the public in general and young people in particular.
  11. Systematic sub-regional and local training programmes with a Caribbean focus and integrating heritage protection, management and tourism should be initiated by the Caribbean countries utilizing new technologies for better dissemination of information at a regional level with the assistance of UNESCO, ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM, CCA, CARIMOS, MAC, IACA, ECCEA, and other entities.
  12. Countries should consider submitting requests for international assistance from the World Heritage Fund for the preparation of National Action Plans, Tentative Lists and nominations, as well as training activities.

The participants sincerely thank the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the UNESCO Sub Regional Adviser for Culture and the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica through its Ministry of Tourism and the National Commission for UNESCO and Dominica NGOs for organizing and supporting this training course which they consider of major significance for the Caribbean and they also thank the Italian Government for its generous financial contribution.

The course provided a unique opportunity to better understand the aims and operations of the World Heritage Convention and its potential significance for the region. It also provided for exchange of opinions and experiences and strengthening the regional networking and cooperation.

The participants encourage UNESCO and the World Heritage Committee to continue to give major attention to the Caribbean in the context of the *Global Strategy for a Representative and Balanced World Heritage List* and to provide continued assistance and develop further activities aimed at the full application of the World Heritage Convention in the Caribbean Sub-Region.

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