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**Item 20B of the Provisional Agenda: Tools for the implementation of the 2002 World Heritage Strategic Objectives - World Heritage Programmes**

Regional Programme for the Arab States

**SUMMARY**

This document contains the Programme elaborated for the Arab Region by the World Heritage Centre in accordance with Decision **26 COM 17.2**. This Regional Programme is based on the findings of the Periodic Reporting submitted in 2000, but is framed in the context of the recent Strategic Orientations adopted by the Committee (see Decision **26 COM 17 .1**), as well as of the Global Training Strategy, and constitutes an attempt to respond to the need for streamlining and pro-activeness identified by the Committee.

After presenting a summary of the findings of the Periodic Reporting, structured around five main areas of action, the document provides the background of UNESCO and World Heritage Committee's policies setting the framework for this Regional Programme. Section 3 explains the proposed strategy of the Programme, while section 4 describes, through a series of synoptic tables, the proposed actions and indicators for its implementation. Finally, section 5 presents the financial assumptions and timetable for implementation.

This document should be read in conjunction with the following document:

**WHC-03/27.COM/20B** World Heritage Programmes (see in particular **Draft Decision 27 COM 20B**)

**UNESCO**  
**World Heritage Centre**

# **Regional Programme for the Arab States**

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# **1. Implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Arab Region and major problems encountered.**

## **1.1. Introduction**

With a few exceptions, the World Heritage sites of the Arab Region are subject to development pressures linked to urban and agricultural expansion, tourism, the exploitation of natural resources (petrol, mining industry, over fishing). These sites are also threatened by other factors such as pollution, and the illicit traffic of cultural property. The general lack of resources for the conservation of the sites, management training and awareness raising of all the national and local persons concerned are another obstacle to the safeguarding of the cultural and natural heritage.

The impact of all of these identified problems, as well as the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, have been evaluated on the basis of information collected by the Secretariat in the framework of its activities and Periodic Reports for the Arab Region submitted by the States Parties in 2000. The detailed report of this analysis was presented during the 24<sup>th</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee<sup>1</sup>.

This chapter summarises this evaluation by highlighting the actions undertaken by the national authorities for the safeguarding of the World Heritage sites in the particular context of this region. It also evokes the most important aspects that have enabled the establishment of the Programme for the Arab Region. The major problems encountered in the region are divided into five themes that reflect potential fields of action for the implementation of this Programme.

These fields of action are:

1. Application of the Convention
2. Institutional and legal framework
3. Site management and conservation
4. Education, awareness raising and support, through communication
5. Information management

Inasmuch as training and capacity building are an integral part, to varying degrees, of all the activities proposed by the Regional Programme, they are not considered as an independent field of action.

## **1.2. Application of the Convention**

The application of the World Heritage Convention is dependant on the knowledge of its concepts, such as the Global Strategy or the application of the specific procedures of this Convention (preparation of Tentative Lists, Nomination Dossiers, International Assistance Requests, Periodic Reports, etc.).

The Arab Region comprises two distinct sub-regions: the Middle East and the Maghreb. It has 18 States, all signatories to the World Heritage Convention.

The Periodic Reports comprised two sections:

- Section I. Analysis of the implementation of the Convention in each State Party;
- Section II. Evaluation of the state of conservation of each of the sites inscribed before 1993.

Twelve States Parties (Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Syria, Tunisia, Yemen), that have sites which were inscribed on the World Heritage List prior to 1993, have submitted their Periodic Reports. Four States (Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Sudan), signatories to the Convention, but with no properties inscribed, did not participate in the exercise on the

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<sup>1</sup> Doc. WHC-2000/CONF.204/7

implementation of the Convention (Section I). Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates signed the Convention after the Periodic Reporting Exercise.

The Arab Region has 55 sites inscribed on the World Heritage List, of which 51 cultural (including the Old City of Jerusalem), 3 natural and 1 mixed.

The cultural sites are mostly comprised of historic cities and archaeological areas. Although a regional study still needs to be carried out, it is obvious that the diversity, wealth and characteristics of the cultural and natural heritage of the region have not been taken into consideration by the States Parties during the compilation of the Tentative Lists. This has resulted in a current thematic imbalance of the World Heritage List.

Table 1 presents information on the implementation of the Convention (ratifications, Tentative Lists, number of sites) for 2002.

**Table 1 - Ratifications, Tentative Lists, number of sites per country (2002)**

STATES PARTIES	TENTATIVE LISTS	PROPERTIES INSCRIBED
1. Algeria	Yes	7
2. Bahrain	Yes	0
3. Egypt	Yes	6
4. Iraq	Yes	1
5. Jordan	Yes	2
6. Kuwait	No	0
7. Lebanon	Yes	5
8. Libya	No	5
9. Morocco	Yes	7
10. Mauritania	Yes	2
11. Oman	Yes	4
12. Qatar	No	0
13. Saudi Arabia	No	0
14. Sudan	Yes	0
15. Syria	Yes	4
16. Tunisia	Yes	8
17. United Arab Emirates	No	0
18. Yemen	Yes	3
Total	13 Tentative Lists	54 properties + 1 (The Old City of Jerusalem proposed for inscription by Jordan)

The percent of Arab sites on the List is currently in decline, which would seem to indicate a lack of knowledge of the Convention and its values. Since 1998, the region has registered only one inscription per year, on an average. The Tentative Lists and the proposals for inscription concern mostly cultural sites. The situation is especially cause for concern in the Gulf Region where very few States have submitted Tentative Lists. In certain cases, the Tentative Lists presented to the Secretariat do not meet the requirements.

The Periodic Reports submitted by the countries of the Arab Region indicate that the decision to prepare the nomination dossier is made by the national authorities responsible for the heritage, without the participation of the local authorities and without raising the awareness of the institutional persons with regard to the value of the heritage. The quality of the nomination dossiers is not very satisfactory due to the lack of essential information (maps, documentation, management plans, etc.). It would seem that the inscription criteria have not been clearly understood. In any case, they are not always applied.

Two studies carried out in 1999 and 2002 concerning International Assistance indicate that, since 1993, the number of requests received on behalf of the States Parties has increased by more than 70 percent. However, this increase is inferior to that registered for the other regions. The requests for International Assistance are often incomplete and require substantial revision before they can be submitted for approval to the World Heritage Committee.

In general, the major problems concerning the application of the Convention are:

- *Lack of understanding of the Convention's concepts and procedures, and the weak capacity for its application ;*
- *Gaps in the World Heritage List as concerns the sites inscribed, and in the Tentative Lists in contrast to the wealth and diversity of the cultural and natural heritage of the region.*

### **1.3. Institutional and legislative framework**

This chapter focuses on the institutional and legislative framework that governs and supports the protection of the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.

The institutional structures for the cultural heritage have existed for several decades in the Arab Region, however, in several countries of the region, the natural heritage does not always benefit from institutionalised structures. The institutional framework in the Arab Region is very centralised, and a lack of “horizontal” coordination between the governmental institutions and the services in charge of the conservation of the sites, especially at local level, can be noted. Sometimes, the highest authorities of the State take the initiative of creating inter-ministerial committees to harmonise the actions concerning specific sites, but they do not always function efficiently.

In the Periodic Reports, the majority of the States stressed the need to reform the legislative and institutional frameworks relating to the conservation of cultural heritage. Indeed, the institutional structures mainly concentrate on implementing their original mandate which is limited to archaeological excavations, the sale of tickets, museum administration, etc. Established for the most part during the first half of the 20th century, at a time when heritage was less threatened, the Antiquities Departments were conceived as archaeological institutes and, at best, as guardians of the sites, sometimes carrying out restoration activities. Consequently, these institutions are not equipped, or do not have the mandate to meet the new challenges which the cultural and natural heritage must face today: in particular, urban development, tourism, education, and economic activities, but also looting (see the chapter on site management and conservation). It should also be noted that the conservation services' budget is much lower than those of the other State agencies.

The central authorities have sometimes given management responsibility to other governmental agencies, with a view to integrating heritage resources into the framework of economic and social development, thus separating the responsibilities for conservation from those for presentation between two distinct authorities, with loss of coherence and efficacy. In certain cases, these responsibilities are decentralised to local governments. But there are no clear policies and procedures for integrating the heritage in the process of sustainable development.

The legal instruments, designed for the protection of the sites or individual monuments, do not suffice to ensure the control of urban transformations for the safeguard of the heritage values. Where it exists, the application of legislation protecting urban heritage is confronted with issues of contradictory duplications between traditional, religious and civil rights. Special attention should be given to the religious authorities, such as the *Waqf* (administering religious properties), that possess extensive built heritage in the historic centres, as their main interests do not always coincide with those of the conservation groups.

The main problems concerning the institutional and legislative framework are:

- *Legislation and the institutional framework which still focus on sporadic protective actions for the sites or monuments and which are not always adapted to the modern concept of heritage management which integrates the heritage as a resource in social and economic development;*
- *Lack of policies and coordination procedures between the conservation agencies and other actors intervening on the sites;*
- *Insufficient legislation for the safeguard of the urban heritage;*
- *Underdeveloped institutional and legislative framework for the protection of the natural heritage.*

#### **1.4. Management and conservation of the World Heritage Sites**

Management and conservation implies the knowledge of, maintenance and the presentation of the World Heritage sites, by the responsible bodies.

Nearly all the sites have conservation services, but their efficacy and competence varies. Frequently a lack of appropriate methodology in the management of heritage sites may be observed, and the conservators are often better trained for research rather than management. (Almost all of the sites have no management plan.) The territorial boundaries and buffer zones of the sites are often disputed and are not well defined, which prevents control of the deterioration factors of the sites (urban expansion, road systems, agriculture etc.). Hardly any site has coherent and on-going documentation and monitoring systems.

The management of visitor flow also poses problems. The sites are not well presented, in spite of available infrastructures (museums, visitor welcome centres) at almost all the sites. The presentation of the properties to the visitors is often undertaken by organisations other than the conservation services, which entails a lack of coordination and occasions a distribution of resources that does not always reflect the true priorities of the site.

The sites also suffer from a lack of specialised conservationists, and the frequent use of non-compatible materials (cement, resins etc.), often introduced by foreign scientific missions, can be noted. *Ad-hoc* restoration interventions are always given priority over daily maintenance and preventive conservation.

In summary, the main problems concerning the management and conservation of the World Heritage sites are:

- **Lack of an appropriate and long term methodology for the management and conservation of the sites (identification of values, planning, continuous maintenance, presentation, monitoring, evaluations, etc.)**
- **Lack of capacities in conservation techniques and monitoring activities.**

#### **1.5. Education, awareness raising and support, through communication**

This chapter is devoted to the analysis of the capacity of the Conservation Services to promote awareness raising and the participation of the concerned parties (local communities, local authorities, young people) in the conservation of the World Heritage Sites, as well as their capacity to make use of communication skills to mobilise the necessary support.

The Periodical Reporting Exercise revealed that the local communities and governments have rarely been involved in the inscription process or conservation of the sites. Both lack the necessary understanding of the value of the heritage, as an intrinsic value as well as a development resource. In the case where the immediate needs of the local communities are not being met, these communities might be considered as a direct threat for the conservation of the sites. However, if they are consulted and better informed through educational and awareness-raising programmes, the local communities could have a role to play in protecting the heritage.

It appears that the Conservation Services and site managers often lack communication policies and capacities as regards the links with the different local actors and concerned parties. This is all the more surprising in that the governments and other local institutions play a very important role in the management of most of the World Heritage sites by being, in certain cases, directly involved in the conservation activities. Sometimes, the relationships between these local institutions and the Conservation Services can even be described as conflictual.

This lack of communication is also apparent with regard to the NGOs, the international partners and the potential donors, which could constitute very important political and financial support groups for the safeguard of the World Heritage sites. For example, international cooperation in the heritage domain has existed in almost all the countries of the region for decades, but it remains too focused on scientific research aspects (archaeological excavations, etc.) or occasionally on a restoration intervention, bearing only exceptionally on management and site conservation aspects. Those responsible for conservation do not seem to have either the mandate or sufficient capacities for communication aiming at increasing the awareness of potential donors and fund raising.

The main problems encountered in this domain are:

- **Lack of awareness and participation of the civil society, and especially young people, as concerns heritage values and the conservation of properties;**
- **Lack of capacities in communication skills within the Conservation Services for the mobilisation of civil society, donors and public authorities for the benefit of heritage properties.**

#### **1.6. Information management**

Information management includes the collection and processing of documents and information enabling better implementation of the Convention and the effective management of the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List.

The nomination dossiers prior to 1997 rarely contain up-to-date topographical maps, geographic coordinates, photos, recent bibliographies, etc., provided by the Conservation Services and the sites. With rare exceptions, the sites have not produced appropriate maps or measurements defining the boundaries and buffer zones. This lack of information is very detrimental to the conservation of heritage properties, because it prevents the establishment of a coherent system of legal protection, monitoring and maintenance.

All of the Periodic Reports mention the existence or recent creation of documentation and research centres (centralised at national level). However, most of the documentation is produced and held by scientific or academic institutions (often foreign ones) and does not contribute to the establishment of management or site conservation policies. The Conservation Services do not have an integrated information management system, although the national and heritage services are beginning to develop their WEB sites. Information is not exchanged at regional or international level, and it appears that the use of information technology is not widespread.

The weak points are:

- **Lack of adequate documentation at the sites;**
- **Lack of World Heritage management and information exchange capacities.**



## 2. UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy for the Arab Region, and the policies of the World Heritage Committee regarding Regional Programmes

This chapter aims to present the general context of UNESCO's policies concerning the World Heritage, in particular in the Medium-Term Strategy for the Arab Region, and the Committee's latest Strategic Guidelines relating to the Regional Programmes.

### 2.1. UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy (2002-2007) for the Arab Region

A regional consultative meeting was held in Rabat (Morocco) in June 2002, with the participation of all the National Commissions of the Arab States, as part of the process for the elaboration of UNESCO's new Medium-Term Strategy (2002-2007) and in agreement with the new decentralisation policy adopted by the Organization. The final document<sup>2</sup> sets out the Medium-Term Strategy for the Arab States. The National Commissions designated the following three objectives as priority actions for UNESCO:

*1. Promote the elaboration and application of normative instruments in the field of culture.*

In the framework of the World Heritage Convention, the National Commissions stressed the need for capacity building in the field of site conservation and protection, in particular as concerns the appropriate management and development of tourism. Moreover, this document stresses the need to increase the number of natural heritage properties inscribed on the World Heritage List, and to strengthen the capacity for the preparation of the Nomination Dossiers.

*2. Ensure cultural diversity and encourage the dialogue between cultures and civilisations*

Whenever the protection of the intangible heritage was considered as a priority, the National Commissions recalled the need to identify and enhance the value of the links between the tangible heritage, cultural identities and living traditions. The importance of strengthening inter-regional cooperation was underscored.

*3. Strengthening links between culture and development, through the exchange of knowledge and capacity building*

As concerns this strategic objective, the National Commissions insisted that UNESCO should alert all levels of society of the Arab Region to the potential socio-economic benefits of appropriate management of the cultural and natural heritage. To this end, UNESCO's efforts will primarily focus on capacity building and involvement of the local communities in participative activities.

### 2.2. General policies of the World Heritage Committee concerning the establishment of the Regional Programmes

#### *The Strategic Objectives*

To follow up on the Strategic Guidelines adopted at the 16th session of the Committee in 1992, and the analysis of International Assistance, the 25th session of the Committee, in 2001, discussed the finalisation of the Strategic Objectives for 2002-2007, taking account of the need to draw closer links between the results of the Periodic Reports and the policy for cooperation foreseen in the framework of the Convention. These Objectives, entitled the **4Cs**, were formulated and adopted at the 26th session in Budapest, in June 2002<sup>3</sup> :

1. Strengthen the **credibility** of the implementation of the World Heritage Convention;
2. Ensure the **conservation** of the World Heritage Properties;
3. Promote **capacity** building for conservation;
4. Increase public awareness, involvement and support for heritage through **communication**.

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<sup>2</sup> Medium-Term Strategy (2002-2007) for the Arab States, Paris, 16 September 2002.

<sup>3</sup> Document 26 COM - WHC-02/CONF.202/25

These objectives are set out in the "Budapest Declaration" adopted by the Committee on 28 June 2002, and also incorporated in the new budget proposal of the World Heritage Fund. The Committee has further requested the Secretariat to draw up a series of "instruments" entitled the **3Ps** aiming at the above objectives. These instruments include:

1. A new document on the "**Principles**", guidelines for the conservation of the World Heritage;
2. The reorientation of International Assistance using a "**Programme**" approach;
3. A new "**Partnership**" initiative to strengthen support for the conservation of World Heritage.

The establishment of the programmes for the implementation of the Convention is based in particular on the results of the Periodic Reports, and at the same time responds to the priorities established by the Committee. This is the first stage in a pro-active process, modifying the International Assistance approach. International Assistance financed by the World Heritage Fund would be utilised in a strategic manner, to finance activities that could then be financially and technically supported by other partners.

The partnership principles and means remain to be defined, whereas, on the one hand, the Committee approved (25th session, Helsinki), the continuation of assistance upon request, and on the other, four Programmes representing 10.5% of the budget of the 2002-2003 biennium: 1) Sustainable tourism, 2) Forests, 3) Cities, 4) Earthen constructions.

Additionally, in its Decision **26 COM 17 B**, the Committee invited the Director-General of UNESCO to "develop new Regional Programmes based on the needs specifically identified through the regional periodic reporting exercise with a view to achieve the new Strategic Objectives and to submit these programmes for consideration and adoption at the 27th session of the Committee (June/July 2003)." This document responds to this request of the Committee.

#### *Global Training Strategy*

In view of the importance of capacity building in the framework of this Regional Programme, it was considered useful to recall the main lines of the Global Training Strategy, adopted by the Committee at its 25th session, in December 2001, in Helsinki.

This document highlights the pro-active solutions, planned in accordance with the training needs. Consequently, in the evaluation of the International Assistance requests, "preference should be given to pro-active approaches that result in training modules and long-term strategic programmes designed to respond to priority needs."

Amongst the sectors identified as training priorities are: 1) implementation of the Convention; 2) management of the World Heritage sites; and 3) strengthening of technical, scientific and traditional capacities for the conservation of the cultural and natural heritage. Although this Global Training Strategy was adopted by the Committee in 2001, prior to the Strategic Objectives (2002), three of the 4 "C"s can already be clearly identified: Credibility, Conservation and Capacity Building.

To attain these objectives, amongst other initiatives, the Global Strategy foresees "the development of ready-to-use Training Modules, designed to be adaptable to specific regional and national contexts". Finally, the Global Training Strategy encourages the States Parties to include training components in their Technical Assistance requests as concerns the *in situ* activities.

### 3. The Regional Programme Strategy

The strategy of this Regional Programme, which can be considered as a “regional programme based on needs identified during the Periodic Reporting Exercise” in accordance with Decision 26 COM 17 B, directly responds to the different recommendations of the Medium-Term Strategy for the Arab States Region (2002-2007), and to the strategic orientations of the World Heritage Committee (including the Global Training Strategy).

Once the direct link between the Periodic Reporting and the actions proposed in this Regional Programme are established, this chapter will attempt to explain how the 4 “C”s are integrated into its strategy, how the pro-active principle is interpreted, and how the Programme proposes to mobilize regional and international partners to ensure the sustainability of its impact.

The Synthesis Report on the Periodic Reporting Exercise presented in Cairns in 2000 had identified the principal points and indicated the objectives to be achieved. Whereas, the Regional Programme for the Arab Region proposes an important new element, by integrating operational mechanisms into its strategy. The three main tools for execution are: the International Assistance Modules, Projects and National Programmes. A mechanism for evaluation and revision (represented by a Monitoring Committee) is also foreseen in the Regional Programme. The following chapters will explain how these tools are linked to each other in the implementation mechanism, and the appropriate steps by which to attain the objectives and produce expected results.

#### 3.1 International Assistance Modules

Taking account of the present mechanisms for International Assistance granted in the framework of the World Heritage Fund (attributed upon the request of States Parties), the Regional Programme presents a series of “assistance kits” ready for use and conceived as modules to be reproduced. These kits, which will be referred to here as “International Assistance Modules”, respond to each of the needs identified in the Periodic Reporting and are organized in accordance with the five fields of action described in Chapter 1<sup>4</sup>.

These modules will be presented to States Parties in the framework of International Assistance, in a pro-active manner and in accordance with priorities, in a kind of “menu” form. For example, to respond to the problem of lack of understanding of the procedures for the nomination of properties to the World Heritage List, a specific training workshop is developed and presented in this Regional Programme (see Chapter 4.3, Table 2). The module in question will contain information on its duration, the number of beneficiaries, a cost estimate and the responsible training institution. These modules will be carefully devised to ensure a long-term approach to the activity and to identify the regional partners and involve them from the beginning.

The International Assistance Modules correspond obviously to the general categories (preparatory assistance, technical cooperation, training) and to the financial resources presently established by the *Guidelines*. However, they will also be developed for immediate implementation, following the approval of the corresponding request by the Committee, thus considerably improving the efficiency of the World Heritage Centre in the use of the World Heritage Fund resources<sup>5</sup>.

Tables 2 to 6 provide the list of International Assistance Modules that, for the time being, are simply presented with their title. However, these modules will be entirely developed in collaboration with the advisory bodies (ICCROM and ICOMOS for cultural heritage, and IUCN for natural heritage) with

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<sup>4</sup> The fields of action cover the 4 “C”s identified by the Committee as Strategic Objectives, but organize them in relation to the types of action envisaged in this Regional Programme.

<sup>5</sup> Over and above the lack of human and financial resources, which constitute a significant constraint in the use of the World Heritage Fund, there is the inherent difficulty in executing a large variety of technical assistance operations based on a “reactive” approach, because they require the continual redefinition of objectives, choice of partners and adjustment of modalities for their implementation. The pro-active approach described here is a proposal to rationalize and improve the efficiency of the system.

fully detailed and operational proposals, including the work plan, human resource requirements, budget and timetable. Furthermore, for each module the most appropriate partner will be identified and integrated into the activity, taking account first of all of national capacities. A complete description of these modules will be available on the Internet at the World Heritage Centre site, with a link to the partners concerned, to facilitate the use of the modules by the States Parties.

Once completed, these modules will become the basis for long-term partnerships between the World Heritage Centre and a certain number of institutions, professionals, scientists and academicians, chosen for their competencies and experience in the region and elsewhere, thus benefiting from existing resources.

More importantly, States Parties will have access to a wide variety of assistance activities, ready for implementation, fully explained and tested, from which they may choose to respond to their needs. The donors will be able to “envision” the activities and consider in advance which activity would be suitable for funding by them, and negotiate funding directly with the beneficiary. Clearly, the States Parties can always request international assistance in the framework of the World Heritage Fund for a specific activity that is not available as a module in the framework of the Regional Programme, as long as its objectives and execution modalities are compatible with the principles indicated in the *Guidelines*.

### **3.2 Projects**

In this context, the projects referred to are those activities that are more far-reaching than those normally executed in the framework of international assistance obtained through the World Heritage Fund. These projects, aimed at extrabudgetary funding and often targeting more than one country (sub-regional and regional activities), are developed to complete and strengthen the impact of the international assistance modules already described, and they are in line with the recent decision of the Committee to allocate a certain percentage of the World Heritage Fund for the execution of specific programmes, thus reinforcing the pro-active principle. As an example of complementarity, the Regional Programme for the development of World Heritage information management capacities in the Arab States, now being executed thanks to funding from the Flemish authorities, could provide the basic infrastructure, whilst an international assistance module could assist a State Party in the preparation of high quality mapping for all of its World Heritage sites.

Whereas the assistance modules may be reproduced and are mainly focused on capacity building and specific national needs, the projects are generally conceived for one-time implementation, with the aim of strengthening regional and inter-regional cooperation in the framework of the Convention. However, the long-term activities requiring substantial investment (such as the preparation of urban conservation plans) may be included in this category. If these activities should be approved by the Committee, all the projects listed in Chapter 4.3 will constitute the main ‘catalogue’ of the Centre’s fund raising activities for the Arab Region. In fact, some have already been submitted to donors and have received some funding.

### **3.3 National Programmes**

The third component of the strategy for the implementation of the Regional Programme is the definition of National Programmes for each State of the region. A national implementation programme will comprise activity modules and projects selected by the States Parties, amongst those proposed in the Regional Programme and most suitable for the specific requirements of each country. These National Programmes will thus represent the planning instrument by which certain potential activities described in the Regional Programme, including the adaptation and refining of modules and projects dependent upon prevailing conditions in each country, could receive international assistance, should the State Party so request. A corresponding activity module has been included (see Chapter 4). Another objective of the National Programme, in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee (paragraph VII.32 of the 25th ordinary session, Helsinki, December 2001) would be the establishment of national focal points for World Heritage and the creation of Working Groups for

World Heritage in each country of the region. These focal points should not be conceived as new institutions, but more as a means to strengthen national and regional cooperation for the implementation of the Convention.

### **3.4 The Monitoring Committee**

The Regional Programme foresees the organization every three years (each year following the submission of periodic reports and again three years later) of regional meetings during which the World Heritage coordinators for each country of the region (see above) and the representatives of the Conservation Services of the cultural and natural World Heritage sites, meet in order to review the progress made in the application of the Convention in the Arab Region. This group could comprise a Monitoring Committee for the evaluation and revision of the Regional Programme. The technical partners and the representatives of the donor countries could be invited to participate. The meeting, coordinated by the World Heritage Centre, would provide recommendations to the Committee for eventual modifications of the Programme. This regional meeting could be financed through the World Heritage Fund as an integral part of the follow-up to periodic reporting. The first meeting of the Monitoring Committee is foreseen in 2004 to present the strategy for the Regional Programme to the national authorities. Following this, the Committee could meet at regular intervals, in the Periodic Reporting year to revise the Programme in the light of this exercise and make recommendations to the World Heritage Committee, and then every three years.

For example, the two annexed tables at the end of this document show the logic of a possible national programme for the implementation of the Regional Programme (Table 8), and a form containing a fully developed possible activity module (Table 9).

## **4. Objectives, expected results and indicators**

### **4.1 Global objective**

The global objective of the Regional Programme is the implementation of the Convention in the Arab Region, and the enhancement of the role of World Heritage as an instrument for identity, vector for sustainable socio-economic development, promotion of pluralism and inter-cultural dialogue.

### **4.2 Objectives of the Regional Programme**

The Regional Programme aims at strengthening and proposing solutions to each of the difficulties encountered in the five sectors identified in the chapters concerning the implementation of the Convention. Thus, the objectives of the Regional Programme are:

- strengthening the application of the Convention;
- contributing to the revision of the legal and institutional framework;
- improving conservation and management of sites;
- promoting education, awareness and support of World Heritage values;
- improving information and documentation management relating to the World Heritage sites.

As has been explained above, these objectives correspond to the Strategic Objectives of the World Heritage Committee ( the 4 “C”s), recognizing that capacity building is integrated into the Regional Programme as an essential tool to attain the expected results.

### **4.3. Expected results, activities and indicators**

The expected results of the Regional Programme depend directly upon the major problems identified in Chapter 1. "Implementation of the Convention in the Arab States and Major Problems" and are structured around the five fields of action. To respond to the problems identified by the Periodic Reports and to attain these results, in conformity with the Regional Programme Strategy described above, a series of activity modules, projects and indicators has been conceived for the evaluation of progress of the Regional Programme in respect of its objectives.

For each of the fields of action, the following five tables present an overall view of the problems, results, activities (modules and projects) and indicators. These should facilitate understanding of the logic of the Regional Programme.

The proposed modules and projects are not exhaustive. Other types of activities could be developed and added to the catalogue. Nevertheless, in the Secretariat's experience, they largely cover the most important needs and recurring difficulties encountered in the implementation of the Convention.



**Table 2 – Application of the Convention**

<u>Problems</u>	<u>Expected results</u>	<u>Assistance Modules and Projects</u>	<u>Indicators</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lack of understanding of the Convention's concepts and procedures, and insufficient capacity for its application;</li> <li>● Gaps in the World Heritage List with regard to the sites inscribed, and in the Tentative Lists in comparison to the wealth and diversity of the cultural and natural heritage of the region.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Submission of Tentative Lists and Periodic Reports by all the States Parties;</li> <li>2. Increase, in number and quality, of the nomination dossiers and requests for International Assistance submitted by the Arab States;</li> <li>3. Better representation of the wealth and diversity of the cultural and natural heritage of the Region on the World Heritage List;</li> <li>4. Establishment of the focal points for the application of the Convention within the Governmental Institutions of each country of the region;</li> <li>5. Development of National Programmes for the implementation of this Regional Programme;</li> <li>6. Review of progress and updating of the Regional Programme every three years.</li> </ol>	<p>□ <b>Project 1.1</b> Regional Meeting of the Monitoring Committee (see Chapter 3.4 above) for the evaluation of the progress of the Regional Programme</p> <p>■ <b>Module 1.1</b> National Workshop on the Convention's concepts and procedures</p> <p>■ <b>Module 1.2</b> National Training Workshop on the procedure for nominating properties for inscription on the World Heritage List</p> <p>■ <b>Module 1.3</b> National Training Workshop on drafting Periodic Reports</p> <p>■ <b>Module 1.4</b> Preparatory Assistance for drafting a nomination dossier for a serial, transborder or cultural landscape property</p> <p>■ <b>Module 1.5</b> National Training Workshop for the preparation of International Assistance requests</p> <p>■ <b>Module 1.6</b> Assistance for the establishment or the strengthening of a national focal point for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and the preparation of a National Programme for the implementation of the Regional Programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Number of States Parties having submitted a Tentative List;</li> <li>● Number of nomination dossiers submitted by the States Parties of the Region;</li> <li>● Percentage of natural sites (or serial, transborder, or cultural landscape sites) in the Arab Region of all the sites inscribed on the World Heritage List;</li> <li>● Number of States Parties with a National Programme for the implementation of the Regional Programme;</li> <li>● Number of requests for International Assistance submitted by the States Parties of the Arab Region and approved by the Committee;</li> <li>● Number of States Parties having established working groups for the implementation of the Convention.</li> </ul>



**Table 3 - Institutional and legislative framework**

<u>Problems</u>	<u>Expected results</u>	<u>Assistance Modules and Projects</u>	<u>Indicators</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislation and the institutional framework still focus on sporadic protection actions for the sites or monuments and are not adapted to the modern notion of heritage management integrating the heritage as a resource in social and economic development;</li> <li>• Lack of policies and coordination procedures between the conservation agencies and the other actors intervening at the sites;</li> <li>• Legislation for the safeguarding of the urban heritage still insufficient;</li> <li>• Institutional and legislative framework not sufficiently developed for the protection of the natural heritage.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Better integration of the modern concept of heritage management, including cultural and natural properties as a resource for social and economic development in legislation and the institutional conservation framework;</li> <li>2. Establishment of coordination mechanisms between the governmental, national and local institutions, and the services responsible for conservation;</li> <li>3. Development of protection mechanisms adapted to the urban context;</li> <li>4. Development of legislation for the protection of natural heritage in most of the countries of the Arab Region.</li> </ol>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Project 2.1</b> Evaluation of the legal and administrative frameworks of the <u>Convention</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Project 2.2</b> Development of specific legislation for the protection of a historic city</p> <p>■ <b>Module 2.1</b> Development of policies and coordination procedures for the management of a heritage site.</p> <p>■ <b>Module 2.2</b> National Training Workshop on legislation and policies for the protection of natural heritage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of legislation and institutional frameworks developed for the protection of natural heritage ;</li> <li>• Number of legal protection mechanisms developed and adopted for historic cities listed as World Heritage in the Arab Region;</li> <li>• Number of coordination procedures developed and adopted between the Conservation Services and other local and national actors.</li> </ul>

**Table 4 - Site management and conservation**

<u>Problems</u>	<u>Expected results</u>	<u>Assistance Modules and Projects</u>	<u>Indicators</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of an appropriate and long term methodology for the management and conservation of the sites (identification of values, planning, ongoing maintenance, enhancement, monitoring, evaluations, etc.);</li> <li>• Lack of capacities in conservation techniques and monitoring;</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development of an appropriate and long term management mechanism (identification of values, planning, enhancement, maintenance, monitoring, evaluation, etc.) at the World Heritage sites;</li> <li>2. Management capacities of the sites strengthened;</li> <li>3. Development or improvement of capacities for conservation techniques and monitoring methods.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Module 3.1</b> <u>National Training Workshop on the management of World Heritage sites</u></li> <li>■ <b>Module 3.2</b> <u>National Training Workshop on Conservation Principles</u></li> <li>■ <b>Module 3.3</b> <u>National Training Workshop on Conservation Techniques and Monitoring Methods<sup>6</sup></u></li> <li>■ <b>Module 3.4</b> <u>Technical Assistance and advice for the site management and conservation</u></li> <li>□ <b>Project 3.1</b> <u>Preparation of a Management Plan for a World Heritage site</u></li> <li>□ <b>Project 3.2</b> <u>Training course in World Heritage site management</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Number of Arab sites inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger ;</li> <li>● Number of management plans developed and adopted ;</li> <li>● Number of curators trained in conservation principles and techniques and the use of traditional materials ;</li> <li>● Number of documentation and regular monitoring systems established at the World Heritage sites.</li> </ul>

<sup>6</sup> Activity modules will be elaborated for each conservation technique, for example for stone, mosaic, earthen architecture, mural painting, etc.

**Table 5 – Education, awareness raising and support through Communication**

<u>Problems</u>	<u>Expected Results</u>	<u>Assistance Modules and Projects</u>	<u>Indicators</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of awareness of heritage values and participation of civil society, especially young people, in the conservation of properties;</li> <li>• Lack of capacities, of those responsible for the Conservation Services, for communication techniques to mobilise civil society and public authorities for heritage protection.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Greater awareness of civil society, local communities, and especially young people, of heritage protection themes. Contribution of this group to the conservation of heritage properties ;</li> <li>2. Establishment of partnerships between schools and managers of the World Heritage sites;</li> <li>3. Strengthening communication capacities of the conservation services for the protection and support of heritage.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Module 4.1</b> <u>National training workshop in communication skills for conservators</u></li> <li>■ <b>Module 4.2</b> <u>Short introductory seminar on the World Heritage Convention for local officials and decision makers</u></li> <li>■ <b>Module 4.3</b> <u>National training workshop for secondary school teachers in the use of the educational kit “World Heritage in Young Hands”</u></li> <li>■ <b>Module 4.4</b> <u>National training workshop for site conservators for the creation and drafting of a project and negotiating skills</u></li> <li>■ <b>Module 4.5</b> <u>Technical assistance for the development and implementation of awareness raising campaigns for heritage protection</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of partnerships developed between secondary schools and site Conservation Services;</li> <li>• Number of conservators trained in communication skills ;</li> <li>• Number of cooperation projects negotiated and resources mobilised by the site Conservation Services;</li> <li>• Number of projects having a negative impact on the values of the World Heritage sites cancelled thanks to the mobilisation capacities of those responsible for conservation.</li> </ul>

**Tableau 6 – Information management**

<u>Problems</u>	<u>Expected Results</u>	<u>Assistance Modules and Projects</u>	<u>Indicators</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of adequate documentation at the sites;</li> <li>• Lack of World Heritage information and management exchange capacities.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Documentation on the World Heritage sites (cartography, state of conservation, etc.) updated and integrated in the Nomination Dossiers;</li> <li>2. Strengthened capacities for World Heritage information management;</li> <li>3. Establishment of a WEB site in Arabic for better diffusion of information on World Heritage.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>Module 1.1</b> <u>Digitalisation and updating of the cartography of a property inscribed on the World Heritage List;</u></li> <li>■ <b>Module 1.2</b> <u>Assistance to the national authorities for the establishment of a national documentation and information centre on the Convention, and creation of a focal point on its use</u></li> <li>■ <b>Module 1.3</b> <u>Development of procedures and assistance for the establishment of a regular monitoring system for a property inscribed on the World Heritage List</u></li> <li>□ <b>Project 1.1</b> <u>Capacity building for World Heritage information management in the Arab States</u> <sup>7</sup></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of World Heritage sites with updated cartography being used in the daily management of a property;</li> <li>• Number of sites inscribed on the World Heritage List whose perimeters and buffer zones have been redefined since listing;</li> <li>• Number of conservators trained in information management techniques (GIS, databases, etc.);</li> <li>• Number of monthly contacts on the Arabic WEB site containing information on the World Heritage Convention and the properties inscribed on the List in the Arab Region.</li> </ul>

<sup>7</sup>This Project, planned for a duration of 18 months, is currently being implemented, thanks to a contribution from the Flemish authorities. It includes the development of a WEB site in Arabic on the World Heritage and databases for better management of the sites and the implementation of the Convention. The training of national specialists in the use of information management software, such as GIS or ACCESS is also foreseen.

## **5. Resources and calendar for the implementation of the Regional Programme**

The logic of the Regional Programme is based on the voluntary adhesion of the States Parties which can decide, in accordance with their priorities, if and when they would wish to establish the national programme and, consequently, to apply the international assistance modules and the proposed projects. Therefore, it is difficult to accurately define the budgetary resources required and the calendar for the implementation of the Regional Programme.

However, based on past experience, and recent figures of the World Heritage Fund, we know that each year approximately US\$ 200,000 to 250,000 is allocated through international assistance to the Arab States. Furthermore, in the past, the Committee decided to approve a special amount of US\$ 200,000 for the execution of Special Programmes<sup>8</sup>, a part of which could benefit Arab countries, and US\$ 150,000 to assist the Palestinian Authorities in the protection of cultural and natural heritage in Palestine (even if in this case, it is on an exceptional basis). Additional amounts, (US\$ 30,000 to 40,000), have been allocated each year by the Committee for the follow-up to the Periodic reports and the Global Strategy.

In addition, extrabudgetary sources were mobilized to support activities in the Arab States. This includes more than one million US dollars in the framework of a World Bank project for the rehabilitation of four ancient cities in Mauritania; approximately US\$ 280,000 for scientific cooperation for the World Bank cultural project in Lebanon; approximately US\$ 100,000 from the Italian funds-in-trust to support expert missions and small-scale projects in Egypt, Libya and Sudan; US\$ 40,000 from a Dutch funds-in-trust (Yemen and this Regional Programme) and approximately US\$ 20,000 in the framework of the France-UNESCO Agreement for expert missions to Mauritania, Syria, etc.

It is likely that in the near future, some of the wealthier Arab countries of the Gulf region may wish to contribute towards the implementation of the Convention in the region. In the event that this tendency is maintained, and that the States Parties are willing to participate in the activities of the Regional Programme by developing their own national programmes, (as explained in Chapter 2.3 above), it is conceivable that at least US\$ 500,000 will be available each year to assist the Arab States. However, once the Regional Programme is fully operational and all the assistance modules sufficiently developed and available for immediate implementation, additional resources should be identified, in particular from regional donors and partners, thus increasing the annual budget for the Arab countries to US\$ 600,000-700,000, or more.

In accordance with these calculations, Table 7 hereafter has been elaborated to show the appropriate timetable for the implementation of the Regional Programme over a six-year period, corresponding to the Periodic Reporting cycle.

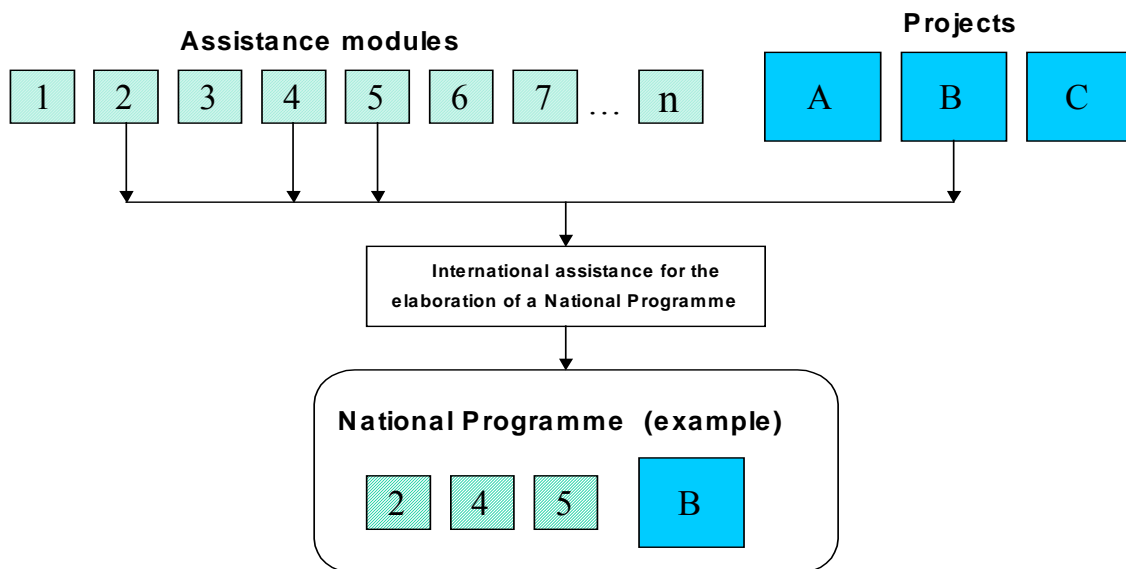
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<sup>8</sup> To date, the Committee has approved four Programmes: Historic Cities, Earthen Architecture, Forests and Tourism.

**Table 7 – Provisional timetable for the implementation of the Regional Programme over a six-year period<sup>8</sup>**

2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Approval of the Regional Programme by the Committee;</li> <li>▪ Integrated and developed assistance modules;</li> <li>▪ Comprehensive projects defined.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ First regional meeting of the Monitoring Committee for the presentation of the Programme Strategy</li> <li>▪ States Parties develop their national programme for the implementation of the Regional Programme</li> <li>▪ Modules and Projects are refined in accordance with the needs of the different countries</li> <li>▪ Additional resources are identified to support the projects</li> <li>▪ Implementation of the Regional Programme begins</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ States Parties develop their national programme for the implementation of the Regional Programme;</li> <li>▪ Continued implementation of the Regional Programme.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continued implementation of the Regional Programme.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Arab States prepare and submit their second Periodic Reports;</li> <li>▪ The Monitoring Committee (see Chapter 3.4) meets and evaluates the progress of the Regional Programme. Recommendations are made;</li> <li>▪ Continued implementation of the Regional Programme.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The World Heritage Committee is informed of the progress of the Regional Programme and the Monitoring Committee's recommendations and takes appropriate decisions;</li> <li>▪ Continued implementation of the Regional Programme.</li> </ul>

<sup>9</sup> Years of the Periodic Reporting and meetings of the Monitoring Committee are shaded.



**Table 8 - The National Programmes comprise a selection of assistance modules and projects, adapted according to the specific needs of the State Party. The definition of these Programmes could form a specific international assistance request.**

**TABLE 9 – INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE MODULE (EXAMPLE)**

**Title** : National training workshop on procedures for the inscription of properties on the World Heritage List

**Beneficiaries** :

10-15 national specialists in the heritage field, involved in the implementation of the Convention in their countries.

**Expected results**:

Upon completion of the workshop, the participants will have acquired a very good understanding of the concepts and procedures relating to the nomination of a property to the World Heritage List, and will be capable of preparing a dossier satisfying the minimal requirements for acceptance by the World Heritage Centre. Thanks to precise examples, the concepts of serial and transborder sites and site extensions will be addressed as well as essential definitions and criteria.

**Modalities for execution** :

The week-long workshop is built around theoretical and practical sessions, including site visits. The participants will be guided through the inscription process of a site thanks to the specific training Kit and following interactive discussions with the Workshop Coordinator and three resource persons. At the end of the workshop, the draft inscription dossiers will be prepared for selected case studies. Earlier nomination dossiers of World Heritage sites will be examined and action plans will be established for their update.

**Partnership** :

ICCROM has been chosen as the partner responsible for the execution of the Assistance Module because of its experience of the Convention (as Advisory Body) and its long tradition in the field of training. Furthermore, at the request of the Secretariat, ICCROM has recently produced a Training Kit specifically conceived for the nomination process.

**Budget** :

An approximate amount of US\$ 30,000 has been foreseen for the execution of this Module. This budget includes travel and board and lodging costs, and the fees for four experts for the workshop week plus a preparatory week, as well as the local logistical costs (meeting room, equipment, transport, board, etc.). Lodging and internal transport costs for the participants should be covered by the local authorities. A more precise budget can be provided in accordance with the context of the country benefiting from the activity.