

Distribution limited

WHC-04/28.COM/8
Paris, 4 May 2004
Original: English/French

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Twenty-eighth session

Suzhou, China
28 June – 7 July 2004

Item 8 of the Provisional Agenda: Programme and budget 2004-2005 (32C/5) approved by the 32nd General Conference of UNESCO

SUMMARY

This document provides information on the programme and budget approved by the 32nd General Conference of UNESCO for the promotion and implementation of the *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972)*

Programme IV.2

UNESCO's contribution to the protection of the world's cultural diversity through cultural and natural heritage preservation

04201

Activities

• Regular budget	\$ 9,388,200
Decentralization	36.8%
• Extrabudgetary	\$30,293,600
Total, Activities	\$39,681,800

IV.2.1 Promotion and implementation of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972)

0421

Activities

• Regular budget	\$2,108,900
Decentralization	25.6%
• Extrabudgetary	\$17,291,100
Total, Activities	\$19,400,000

04210

The General Conference

Authorizes the Director-General

- (a) to carry out the corresponding plan of action for the implementation of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage by:
 - (i) providing support to the World Heritage governing bodies, and
 - (ii) protecting the world's cultural diversity and supporting the development process through the 1972 Convention with a strategic focus on strengthening the credibility of the World Heritage List, by focusing on developing countries and under-represented regions, including Associate Members, ensuring the effective and preventive conservation of World Heritage properties, promoting the development of effective capacity-building measures, and increasing public awareness, involvement and support for World Heritage through communication;
- (b) to allocate for this purpose an amount of \$2,108,900 for programme costs and \$32,400 for indirect programme costs at Headquarters.

Main line of action 1. Support to the World Heritage governing bodies

04211

Activities	
● Regular budget	\$1,000,000
● Extrabudgetary	\$ 510,000
Total, Activities	\$1,510,000

Background. The function of the World Heritage Centre, established in 1992, is to enhance the effective implementation and promotion of the 1972 *Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*. As the designated Secretariat to the World Heritage Committee, it organizes meetings of the World Heritage Committee, its Bureau and consultative bodies each year, and a General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention every two years. The Centre has an extensive World Heritage Information Management System, which includes data for all cultural and natural properties proposed for inclusion on the World Heritage List, and hundreds of World Heritage statutory documents. The Centre also coordinates its work with that of other multilateral environmental agreements and UNESCO's cultural heritage conventions and recommendations.

Strategy. The effective operation of all intergovernmental mechanisms of the *World Heritage Convention* and conservation actions at world heritage properties constitute a priority for UNESCO, given the high visibility of world heritage and the great importance attached to it by the Member States – as reflected in the budgetary reinforcement of this area – and by many non-governmental and private organizations worldwide.

The strategy will consist of four objectives: (i) to ensure the provision to the World Heritage Committee of the necessary administrative, technical and advisory support from the Secretariat and other organizations (e.g. ICOMOS, IUCN and ICCROM); (ii) to communicate the World Heritage Committee's policy directions in clear guidelines and information for States Parties and all other actors involved in world heritage conservation; (iii) to assume the responsibility for the diffusion of timely, clear and concise information and advice to States Parties; and (iv) to devise appropriate processes and systems for the archiving and management of access of information on the value, attributes and state of conservation of world heritage properties.

The Centre's actions related to the operational activities of the Convention are described under MLA 2 and links established in Subprogrammes IV.1.1 and IV.1.3.

Expected results at the end of the biennium

- ◆ Recognition by Member States of UNESCO's lead role in the implementation of the 1972 Convention sustained and consolidated.

Performance indicators:

- increase in the number and type of measures adopted by Member States with a view to implementing the 1972 Convention;
- increase in the number of applications presented to the World Heritage Committee for inscription in the World Heritage List.

- ◆ Policy decisions and orientations by the World Heritage Committee and the General Assembly of States Parties for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention adopted and implemented.
- ◆ Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention in several languages revised and disseminated.

Performance indicators:

- number of language versions produced;
- scope of dissemination.

Main line of action 2. Protecting the world's cultural diversity and supporting the development process through the 1972 Convention

04212

Activities	
● Regular budget	\$ 1,108,900
● Extrabudgetary	\$16,781,100
Total, Activities	\$17,890,000

Background. *The World Heritage Convention* (1972) is making a significant contribution to global natural and cultural heritage conservation with 175 signatory States Parties; a World Heritage List of 730 properties (563 cultural, 144 natural and 23 mixed properties in 125 countries) that continues to grow each year, and a List of World Heritage in Danger that currently includes 33 properties. Assistance is provided to States Parties for the identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage. This assistance is being developed through the strengthening of existing and development of new partnerships for world heritage conservation. As the coordinator of UNESCO's world heritage activities, the Centre ensures the collection and transmission of information to, and the coherence of UNESCO's actions with, the policy orientations expressed by the World Heritage Committee in order to better serve the purposes of the Convention.

Strategy. In line with the objectives for the protection of the world heritage adopted by the Committee at its 26th session (Budapest, June 2002), the strategy will consist of: (i) strengthening the credibility of the World Heritage List, as a representative and geographically balanced testimony of cultural and natural properties of outstanding universal value; (ii) ensuring the effective conservation of world heritage properties in close cooperation with the Division of Cultural Heritage and the Division of Ecological Sciences; (iii) promoting the development of effective capacity-building measures, including assistance for preparing the nomination of properties to the World Heritage List, for the understanding and implementation of the World Heritage Convention and related instruments; and (iv) increasing public awareness, involvement and support for world heritage through communication.

The mechanisms for the registration of world heritage nominations and the Global Strategy for a representative World Heritage List will be strengthened as will be existing thematic and regional action programmes for cultural and natural heritage conservation. Further, the launching of the World Heritage Partnership Initiatives will be supported and educational and awareness-building programmes will be intensified.

Expected results at the end of the biennium

- ◆ Number of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention increased and new tentative lists established.

Performance indicators:

- number of new States Parties;
- number of new tentative lists.

- ◆ Nominations of cultural and natural properties from regions or categories of heritage, currently under- or non-represented on the World Heritage List increased, especially in LDCs.

Performance indicators:

- number of nominations received from under- and non-represented regions and categories;
- number of nominations from LDCs.

- ◆ Reporting and monitoring process on the state of conservation of world heritage sites strengthened.

Performance indicators:

- number of annual reports published;
- biannual summary report produced;
- number of management plans supported;
- number of training programmes for technical personnel organized;
- number of sites involved in training

- ◆ World Heritage Partnerships Initiative (WHPI) developed and expanded.
Performance indicators:
 - *number and diversity of partners involved;*
 - *number of partnerships concluded and implemented;*
 - *Amount of additional funds raised for major conservation projects;*
 - *Educational and awareness-raising programmes conducted;*
 - *Partnerships concluded with media groups.*