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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 16 of the Provisional Agenda: Periodic Reporting: State of the World Heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean, 2004**

Summary Report of the *Conference on the Development of a Caribbean Action Plan in World Heritage*, Castries, Saint Lucia (23 to 27 February 2004)

**SUMMARY**

Representatives of twenty Caribbean States Parties and Associated Territories gathered at the **Conference on the Development of a Caribbean Action Plan in World Heritage** from 23 to 27 February 2004 at Castries, St. Lucia (West-Indies).

They called upon the World Heritage Committee to note that they wish to explore fully the implications of the options of serial, transboundary and serial-transboundary nominations to increase possibilities for Caribbean nominations to the World Heritage List, and to approve the Periodic Report for Latin America and the Caribbean, including related Action Plan. They also called upon the governments of Caribbean States Parties to provide the necessary financial, technical and administrative resources and structures to take full advantage of the benefits derived from the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* and to improve existing policies, legislation and resource management systems within their countries.

The Caribbean Representatives formally adopted an Action Plan 2004-2014, including a consensus on the way forward in the development of a Caribbean Capacity Building Programme, a Declaration of Castries and a Resolution, which are presented in this document.

# *Conference on the Development of a Caribbean Action Plan in World Heritage*

**Castries, Saint Lucia (W.I.), 23 - 27 February 2004**

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## **Background to the meeting**

The Saint Lucia Conference, which took place in Castries from 23 to 27 February 2004, had three main objectives, being:

- 1) Finalization of the Caribbean part of the *Periodic Reporting on the Application of the World Heritage Convention*. The aim of the meeting was to bring Caribbean authorities and resource persons together, supplemented by Caribbean cultural and natural heritage experts, UNESCO staff and Advisory Bodies representatives, to review and endorse the final findings of the Periodic Reporting exercise under implementation in the region, which will be presented during the 28th session of the World Heritage Committee in June 2004;
- 2) Evaluation of past achievements and outcomes of expert meetings organized under the Caribbean Global Strategy Action Plan to draft an *Action Plan in World Heritage* for the coming 5 to 10 years;
- 3) Among which was further discussion on the development of a *Capacity Building Programme for the Caribbean* during the biennium 2004-2005.

## **Justification**

The Conference in St. Lucia, which was generously sponsored by the Government of the United Kingdom, was a direct follow-up to two earlier meetings organized by the World Heritage Centre, being the *Periodic Reporting Review meeting for the Caribbean* in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in June 2003 and the *Meeting on the Harmonization of Tentative Lists for Eastern Caribbean Island States*, which took place in November 2003 in St. Vincent. The St. Vincent meeting, which was sponsored by the Government of the Netherlands, explored possibilities to improve the representation of Caribbean heritage on the World Heritage List, and in particular to enhance possibilities for small Caribbean island states to nominate their heritage through a cooperative process and a more thematic approach based on current gaps in the List. All these were components of a broader strategy involving the development of a long-term capacity building programme for the Caribbean, which will be presented to the World Heritage Committee as part of the action plan connected to the 2004 Regional Report for the LAC region. The St. Lucia Conference was scheduled to discuss this Regional Report and related Action Plan.

## **Summary Report of the St. Lucia Conference**

Twenty representatives of Caribbean States Parties and Associated Territories, who came from Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, The Netherlands Antilles, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, and Turks & Caicos, together with representatives of the Government of the United Kingdom, UNESCO, the World Heritage Committee, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the United States Department for Agriculture (USDA), the Organization of American States (OAS), UNEP (RAC-SPAW),

and the Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA) participated in the *Conference on the Development of a Caribbean Action Plan in World Heritage*, which took place in Castries, Saint Lucia, from 23 to 27 February 2004.

During the Opening Ceremony, on Monday 23 February 2004, formal addresses were given by Mr. Martin Satney, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Physical Development, Environment & Housing, Hon. Mario Michel, Minister for Education, Human Resource Development, Youth & Sports, Rt. Hon. Lord Andrew McIntosh, Minister for Media & Heritage of the United Kingdom, and Ms. H  l  ne-Marie Gosselin, Director UNESCO Office for the Caribbean in Jamaica. At intervals various music and theatre performances were presented by students from the Ave Maria Girls' Primary School, the Camille Henry Memorial School, and the Sir Ira Simmons Secondary School, closed off by a Vote of Thanks by Mr. Giles Romulus, Saint Lucia's Representative on the World Heritage Committee.

After this official opening, two keynote addresses were given. The first, on *Development Challenges & Peculiarities of Caribbean Island States* by Dr. Vasantha Chase, Head of the Environment and Sustainable Development Unit of the OECS, stressed the level of vulnerability of small island developing states (SIDS) and the need to use the service industry and related heritage tourism as a tool for development. The second, on *The Emerging Developmental Paradigm in the Caribbean - The Role of Heritage Sites* by Mr. Sylvester Clauzel, Programme Coordinator of the St. Lucia Heritage Tourism Programme, outlined the comprehensive approach taken by Saint Lucia in the development of the Pitons Management Area as a multi-use protected park, which could set new standards for SIDS.

Further to this, papers were delivered during the afternoon session focusing on, respectively, *The World Heritage Convention - Global Challenges and Regional Impacts* by Dr. Ron van Oers, Chief of Unit (a.i.) for Latin America & the Caribbean at UNESCO's World Heritage Centre, *The National and Community Impacts of World Heritage Designation of Sites in the United Kingdom* by Dr. Tony Weighell, Earth Science & Coastal Adviser for the Joint Nature Conservation Committee in the UK, and *The World Heritage Convention in the Caribbean - Achievements and Shortcomings* by Mr. Alwin Bully, Senior Programme Specialist for Culture at the UNESCO Office in Jamaica. At the end of the day Caribbean professionals Mr. Larry Armony (St. Kitts & Nevis), Mr. Roderick Ebanks (Jamaica) and Dr. Keith Tinker (The Bahamas), in reflecting on *Issues of Authenticity in Caribbean Heritage*, explored the notion of "imported people in an imported environment" and warned against a projected image of the Caribbean defined by others.

### **Review and Endorsement of Draft Periodic Report for the Caribbean**

Mr. Herman van Hooff of the UNESCO Office in Montevideo and in charge of the execution of the Periodic Reporting exercise in the region, together with Ms. Patricia Green, Caribbean cultural heritage expert, introduced the background and context of Periodic Reporting, including periodicity and regionalisation of the exercise, format of the reports, and responsibilities. The preliminary results of the Periodic Reporting process in Latin America and the Caribbean were presented together with proposed responses for the region and the Caribbean in particular.

As to Section I of the periodic report on the overall application of the Convention by States Parties, it was stressed that this refers to the general national policies for cultural and natural heritage conservation and management, irrespective of the fact if a State Party has World Heritage properties or not.

In this section, the attention was drawn to the need to complete national inventories and Tentative Lists, to draw-up and eventually review national policies for heritage and their integration in general development programmes and plans, to establish comprehensive capacity building programmes to assist States Parties to develop human and institutional resources for heritage, and to pursue actively awareness building, education and communication.

Although only few World Heritage properties in the Caribbean were included in this reporting cycle, it was considered important to also present the results of Section II on the state of conservation of specific World Heritage properties, as this would provide valuable elements for future nominations and the management of heritage sites. In this section, it was concluded that the concepts of the World Heritage Convention (e.g. Outstanding Universal Value, significance, authenticity and integrity) were not well understood and needed further study and clarification in the particular context of the region and its sub-regions. Furthermore, the requirement for integrated management was highlighted for World Heritage properties, including the definition of significance and management objectives, public use plans, emergency and risk preparedness, monitoring, indicators and evaluation.

Analysing the participation of the Caribbean in the World Heritage Convention, it was stressed that this sub-region comprises fourteen out of the total of thirty-one States Parties and that only fourteen of the total of 107 World Heritage sites are from the Caribbean. The sub-region had only received 15 % of the World Heritage Fund international assistance, although it was recognized that over the past years considerable funding had been generated from other sources and that the World Heritage Centre and the Committee had prioritized actions in the Caribbean through the Caribbean Global Strategy Action Plan. A working paper on the achievements of this plan was distributed at the meeting.

After these presentations, the Draft Periodic Report for the Caribbean was endorsed by all Caribbean States Parties representatives.

Later during the conference, participants established a working group to further develop a Caribbean Action Plan for World Heritage, that was chaired by Mr Roderick Ebanks and reported upon by Mr Larry Armony. In preparing the action plan, the group made use of the elements for an action plan prepared at the Periodic Reporting Meeting in Haiti in June 2003 and the presentations made at the Saint Lucia Conference.

### **Caribbean Training Needs Survey**

As part of the development of a Caribbean Capacity Building Programme, during the Port-au-Prince Periodic Reporting meeting in June 2003 it was decided to conduct a Caribbean Training Needs Survey first to assess past activities, achievements, lessons learnt and common needs. For this, an ad hoc Training Task Force was established on 27 October 2003 by email communication, which comprised the UNESCO Advisory Bodies, representatives from Haiti and Cuba, to include their initiatives for Caribbean training activities, St. Lucia, being a WH Committee member, and the Secretariat.

This Task Force was proposed to steer 2 consultants doing the field work. The selection of consultants took place on the basis of receipt of CV's of interested and qualified experts and on 9 December 2003 two consultants were selected, being Ms. Patricia Green (for cultural heritage) and Dr. Lloyd Gardner (for natural heritage), both from Jamaica. The Training Needs Survey was started per direct.

The preliminary findings of this Training Needs Survey were discussed during the meeting in Saint Lucia among the Representatives of Caribbean States Parties, together with the conclusions and recommendations of the Periodic Report 2004 relating to the Caribbean sub-region.

The objectives of the assignment were:

- To determine the training needs of technical staff as well as managers and decision makers in cultural and natural (world) heritage conservation in the Caribbean;
- To execute a survey and quality assessment of existing Caribbean training institutes and facilities in the field of conservation and management of cultural and natural heritage; and
- On the basis of this information, to prepare a first Draft for an Integrated Training Programme for the Caribbean.

The consultants undertook missions to four institutes in the period from 9 December 2003 to 14 February 2004, being:

- CENCREM in La Habana, Cuba;
- University of the West-Indies in Barbados;
- l'Institut Franco-Caraïbe in Guadeloupe (in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture in Haiti);
- Post-graduate School for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

The consultants were to consult regional NGOs, government agencies and programmes which undertake training from time to time, such as CANARI (Caribbean Natural Resources Institute), OECS/ESDU, CCA, CREP (Caribbean Regional Environment Programme), etc.

Conclusions and recommendations of the Training Needs Survey, as presented in the final report dated 16 April 2004:

1. ESTABLISH A REGIONAL COORDINATING MECHANISM (IN ASSOCIATION WITH ICCROM, ICOMOS, AND IUCN)

A regional coordinating body should be established immediately in association with the advisory bodies of ICCROM, ICOMOS, and IUCN. One of the assignments of this would be to establish areas for the combined training, as well as components that would be need to be treated separately.

2. ENABLE COMBINED CULTURAL and NATURAL HERITAGE TRAINING

In the context of the Caribbean Small-Island-Developing-States (SIDS) and the existing framework of limited financial and human resources, as well as from the results of the Caribbean sub-region Periodic Reporting that show legislation and agencies with responsibilities for the integrated management of cultural and natural heritage, it is recommended that there should also be an Integrated approach to training that combines components of cultural heritage and natural heritage under the same programme. Appropriately qualified regional teaching staff should be used to ensure this type of

programme. It is recognized that there would be need to offer certain specific technical and scientific training, and provisions would also be needed for these.

### 3. ENSURE PROGRAMME ACCREDITATION PROCEDURES

An accreditation instrument should be formulated as soon as possible to guide the quality of training for cultural heritage and natural heritage, and ensure that the programme is in adherence with the World Heritage Convention. The accreditation should be applied to all institution offering training in accordance with the implementation of the Convention. This process should be able to be implemented speedily in accordance with training already established internationally in this field of study, but allowing for relevant regional considerations.

### 4. DEVELOP REGIONAL INTERACTIVE INSTITUTIONS

The Caribbean managers and training institutions desire to benefit from the experience and knowledge of their counterparts across the region and to forge strategic links with institutions and personnel for training. Some recommendations are given below for consideration on possible areas for networking that are based on the results of the Training Survey.

- Rationalize the programmes being offered at all the institutions across the Caribbean
- Identify and strengthen as integrated regional centres one institution in the English-speaking (such as the University of the West Indies), French-speaking (such as the Haiti/Guadeloupe initiative) and Spanish-speaking (such as the CENCREM) territories. It is noted that the Netherlands Antilles would be able to participate in any one of these institutions on account of their ability to work with one of these languages.
- Ensure that each programme compliments the other, and interact regionally
- Establish accordingly a UNESCO Chair in each of these regional centres

### 5. INTEGRATE A REGIONAL NETWORK OF TRAINING AND WORKING ON MONUMENTS AND HERITAGE SITES

From the Assessment, the consultants learnt that there were a number of graduates of previous heritage conservation training programmes that are under utilized in the Caribbean sub-region. It is therefore recommended that funds should be brought into the Caribbean for meaningful restoration work across the Caribbean, especially on existing World Heritage sites and potential World Heritage sites. In this way, it would:

- Benefit the conservation of the patrimony in the region,
- Enhance the nomination process,
- Provide practical training “laboratories” and “on-site” learning experiences,
- Open up opportunities for jobs related to the cultural and natural heritage.

Precedence has been the Restoration of Old Havana in Cuba that still acts as a training laboratory, restoration of the Citadel in Haiti that has now terminated, IADB funds to Santa Domingo for work on its World Heritage Site.

In general, the institutions that have been surveyed would need to be enhanced to be able to offer training in cultural and natural heritage that adhere to the 1972 World Heritage Convention. Such action would need to be introduced through the curriculum, professorial,

and advisory levels. It is recognized that all the institutions that have participated in this survey have expressed a desire for these types of intervention.

Additionally, the institutions recognized that training to implement the 1972 World Heritage Convention is vital to improve the Representativity of Caribbean sites on the World Heritage List.

Across the territories of the Caribbean a network of regional training sites should be identified that each would demonstrate excellence in particular areas of Cultural heritage and Natural heritage conservation and management training. There are some sites that can do a lot of work but without the demonstration of excellence, therefore the selection should be on the criteria of having the potential to be such types of laboratories for training.

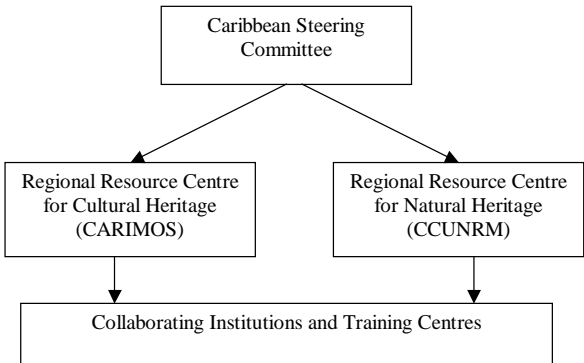
6. FOSTER A REGIONAL INTEGRATED APPROACH

There is a consciousness across the Caribbean that all could benefit from a sharing of experiences and knowledge of each other. There is also an agreement across the Caribbean that joint work on the Caribbean cultural and natural heritage could help to bridge the socio-language barriers. All programmes expressed the desire for future regional collaboration and integration.

7. SET UP OF REGIONAL COORDINATING MECHANISMS

A regional coordinating mechanism is required to facilitate programme harmonization optimal use of resource and expertise and opportunities. The coordinating mechanism would involve,

- A Regional Steering Committee to advise on programme development, allocation of international funding for the training component, and the implementation process
- A Regional Curriculum Advisory Body to ensure development of appropriate content
- Two Regional Resource Centres, one each for the coordination of cultural heritage and natural heritage training programmes. The consultants recommend Monuments and Sites Organization of the Wider Caribbean (CARIMOS) for the cultural heritage training programmes and Consortium of Caribbean Universities for Natural Resources and Management (CCUNRM) for the natural heritage training programmes



To facilitate this, it may be necessary to compile a more detailed information on the training opportunities:

- to determine the approximate sizes of the various target groups for the various areas of training,
- to match those opportunities to the actual needs, and
- to determine the most appropriate design and delivery mechanisms for the areas of training where gaps currently exist.

### **Conclusions and Recommendations of the St. Lucia Conference**

On Friday 27 February 2004 in a series of discussions and presentations various documents and statements were reviewed and approved. Chaired by Mr. Martin Satney, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Physical Development, Environment & Housing and Chairperson of the Pitons Management Area Advisory Committee, the following presentations were given:

- Caribbean Action Plan in World Heritage by Mr. Larry Armony (St.Kitts & Nevis)
- Caribbean Capacity Building Programme by Mr. Roderick Ebanks (Jamaica)
- Declaration of Castries by Ms. Alissandra Cummins (Barbados)
- Resolution by Mr. Giles Romulus (St. Lucia)

The formally adopted documents are presented in the next pages.

The Saint Lucia Conference was officially closed with remarks from the UK Representative, the UNESCO Representative, the Minister for Physical Development, Environment & Housing of the Saint Lucia Government.



## CARIBBEAN ACTION PLAN 2004-2014

### *Introduction*

At a meeting of the Caribbean sub-region held in Haiti in June 2003 it was agreed to formulate an Action Plan for the Caribbean to support the Periodic Report on the Application of the World Heritage Convention in Latin America and the Caribbean, which is to be presented to the World Heritage Committee at its annual meeting in July 2004.

The Action Plan is to take into account the 4 Cs as adopted by the World Heritage Committee in the Global Strategy, namely: **Credibility, Conservation, Communication and Capacity Building**. The elements of an Action Plan based on these 4 Cs had been outlined at the Haiti meeting, and the first three provide the basis for this elaboration of an Action Plan for the period 2004-2014.

### **CREDIBILITY**

**Discussion:** The terms “heritage”, “authenticity” and “integrity” need to be clearly defined. While the former is universally understood as referring to the cultural and natural legacy of the past; the other two speak to “values” and must be interpreted within the context of the Caribbean. Such an interpretation can be aided and informed by the preparation of comprehensive inventories of natural and cultural heritage; and the discussion must first be engaged at national levels.

### **Recommended Actions**

1. Each delegate to the St. Lucia meeting is to present within two weeks a report of the meeting to the respective States Parties, to include the following proposals:
  - (a) that there be held a national consultation on “Heritage, Authenticity and Integrity”, to take place by September 2004;
  - (b) that the preparation of national inventories of natural sites and cultural heritage sites and monuments be finalized (all the required technical formats having already been formulated by CARIMOS and CCA).
2. The World Heritage Committee is to write to the States Parties recommending such national consultations on Heritage, Authenticity and Integrity and providing guidelines for such consultations.
3. The World Heritage Committee is to convene, by March 2005 ideally or not later than June 2005 (bearing in mind the necessity of procuring funding) a sub-regional consultation on “Heritage, Authenticity and Integrity” involving selected regional experts and representatives of the States Parties, The World Heritage Committee, ICOMOS and IUCN. Such a Consultation/Conference should also review the status of national inventories of the States Parties with the view to identifying challenges and ways and means of overcoming these.

## **TENTATIVE LISTS AND THEMATIC STUDIES**

**Discussion** Under the general concept of **CREDIBILITY**, “**Tentative List**” and “**Thematic Studies**” were examined. The following principles were accepted:

- tentative lists must satisfy the World Heritage criteria and demonstrate universal value, authenticity and integrity;
- tentative lists were to be regarded as tools for the World Heritage Committee and also for the States Parties. Thus, if the same or similar properties from around the world appeared in large numbers on tentative lists, few would stand a chance for nomination – hence the desirability of the harmonization of the lists;
- tentative lists were not necessarily to be fixed, although it was not desirable that they be changed frequently;
- one should move beyond the definition of “heritage” as being synonymous with “antiquity”: the NASA space station and the Tuff Gong music studies were given as examples of modern monuments which are of national and even universal heritage value.

It was revealed that an expert meeting to establish a tentative list of Caribbean archaeological sites had been convened. It was also pointed out that some States Parties had not yet presented tentative lists and may be at a disadvantage if their sites were similar to those which had already presented tentative lists; but an “artificial” or provisional deadline of November 2004 had been established so as to allow time for such newcomers to get on board.

### **Recommended Actions**

1. State Party representatives are to review the harmonized tentative lists produced by the meeting in St. Vincent and the Grenadines held in November 2003; and other States Parties not represented were encouraged to add to the list, those sites to be considered for serial nomination.
2. States Parties are to request the World Heritage Committee to circulate their tentative lists among their colleague States Parties of the Caribbean region.
3. Various thematic studies undertaken for Latin America and the Caribbean or resulting from workshops and experts’ meetings are to be compiled and circulated to States Parties in advance of the Consultation/Conference proposed for March 2005.
4. The Slave Route Sites of Memory project is to be designated as a priority theme in which follow-up research be facilitated by The World Heritage Committee in collaboration with one or more regional institutions such as the University of the West Indies and organizations such as The Association of Caribbean Historians; to be completed by June 2005.

## **CONSERVATION/MANAGEMENT**

**Discussion** It was accepted that the formulation of Management Plans were to involve community participation and seek to create employment opportunities and alleviate poverty. Further, strategies were to be developed for procuring international and regional funding assistance and for engaging private sector collaboration.

## **Recommended Actions**

1. A meeting is to be convened within the next three years of managers of natural and cultural heritage sites, for the purposes of exchanging intelligence, sharing experiences, and forging closer collaboration.
2. Efforts are to be made to establish communication with national and regional agencies and international agencies working in the region so as to discover, what they may be doing in the areas of heritage conservation, management and training and how such efforts could be integrated; such efforts to include: a CTO proposed project for a meeting of managers of world heritage and potential world heritage sites, which meeting should specifically include as well representatives from territories and states who are relative newcomers to the World Heritage process; the OAS STEP Programme; the training programme of the Antigua National Park Authority; CCA; and The Association of Caribbean States.
3. The World Heritage Committee is to identify and distribute training manuals in heritage conservation and management, and in risk preparedness and mitigation.
4. The World Heritage Centre is to facilitate the preparation of a manual for best practice management of natural and cultural sites.
5. The States Parties, in conjunction with The World Heritage Committee are to be urged to request of UNESCO that the Caribbean office (located in Jamaica) be strengthened so as to facilitate the co-ordination and implementation of action plans related to The World Heritage strategic objectives in the Caribbean.
6. The State Party representatives are to lobby their respective governments and/or Disaster Management and Response Agencies to incorporate natural sites and cultural heritage sites within their national programmes and be responsive to the particular circumstances of such sites. Further, the State Party representatives and/or the National Commissions are urged to request The World Heritage Committee to write to the States Parties towards achieving the same actions.
7. The World Heritage Committee is to seek further information regarding the intent of the Dominican Republic to establish a training and reactive center for disaster management, mitigation and response for cultural properties to serve the Caribbean region; and the State Parties are to be encouraged to express support for such an initiative of the Dominican Republic.
8. State Party representatives and/or the respective National Commissions are to propose to their respective governments that they request The World Heritage Committee to intervene and facilitate the release by European countries, of information and copied documentation pertaining to natural and cultural heritage sites of their former (and current) colonies in the Caribbean.
9. States Parties are urged to seek assurance of The World Heritage Committee that every effort would be made to provide funding assistance for the implementation of the foregoing actions.

## **COMMUNICATION**

**Discussion** It was recognized that some of the issues covered before could readily be considered under the category of **COMMUNICATION**, and that their necessarily were overlaps in other areas.

### **Recommended Actions**

1. The UNESCO 'Associated Schools Network Programme' is to be revisited and its product: "World Heritage in Young Hands" is to be reviewed and modified so as to project Caribbean images and content.
2. State Party representatives are to activate E-networking among members, and endeavour to sustain the communication network, for which the tools and facilities are widely accessible.
3. A consultancy is to be established within the next three years towards the preparation and development of a multimedia World Heritage Communication Plan targeted at the people and the various constituent groups of the region, in particular, the youth. This plan is to be presented at a workshop for managers, resource persons and the media; such a workshop to include the transmission of communication skills to managers.
4. The World Heritage Committee is to compile and periodically update an inventory of natural and cultural heritage site managers, State Party representatives and other resource persons of the Caribbean region.
5. State Party representatives are to promote the establishment of World Heritage Committees in their respective states and territories.
6. The National Commissions of the respective states and territories are urged to be more pro-active in the dissemination of information to stakeholders, particularly to communications from the World Heritage Committee; and should actively promote the mission of World Heritage.

## **CAPACITY BUILDING**

**Discussion** It was recognized that coverage of natural heritage conservation training next to cultural heritage was needed, that the different traditions and experiences in heritage conservation training that already exist in the wider region should be taken into account, that institutions in the network should take the World Heritage Convention into their programming and that each language group should be represented in a decision making structure.

### **Recommended Actions**

1. To investigate possible structures as a coordinating structure for a Caribbean network of which the Haiti-Guadeloupe proposal for a Caribbean Heritage School is one option and to see if the identified needs and proposed adaptations of the outcomes of the UNESCO consultants' Survey and the findings of this meeting can be included in this proposal.
2. When under investigation and further development, regional consultation on a regular basis should be undertaken, with allocated resources.
3. The development of a Terms of Reference should be undertaken at the earliest, which should be circulated widely for discussion and approval.

4. As a first starting point, an “embryonic” network of existing organizations with a broad curriculum in conservation training can be proposed, which can be extended in the course of the further development of the network.
5. To develop a set of screening and admission criteria for new members of the network.
6. To develop a fund raising strategy.
7. To develop modalities for allocation of funding to administrative unit and outlying training units.

## **DECLARATION OF CASTRIES**

**We, the representatives** of Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Netherlands Antilles, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & The Grenadines, Suriname, and Turks & Caicos Islands; having met from February 23 to 27, 2004, in Castries, Saint Lucia, at the *Conference on the Development of a Caribbean Action Plan in World Heritage*, came, once again, face to face with the realities of Caribbean people living in a Globalised Environment which is less than sympathetic to the vulnerabilities of the Caribbean and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the region;

**Taking note** of our realities which include poverty rates of 25 – 30%, indigence of over 20%, unemployment and under-employment rates which exceed 20%, and high illiteracy rates;

**Recognising the** scarcity of trained heritage professionals in the Caribbean in the field of cultural and natural heritage;

**Realising that** we are vulnerable to natural disasters and a globalised environment characterized by open competition and trade liberalization;

**Agreeing that we** are searching for a sustainable development paradigm based on the principles of equity and participation, and a Caribbean Vision of ‘unity in diversity’;

**Agreeing further that** our ability to survive as Caribbean and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) will depend on developing a new paradigm which is driven by strategies that take into consideration our diverse natural and cultural resources, our inspiring landscapes, our climate, our unique identity and the resilience and creativity of our people who have overcome centuries of hardship and exploitation;

**Taking cognisance** of the World Heritage Convention of 1972, which establishes a List of the World’s natural and cultural heritage; promotes and supports the identification of natural and cultural heritage sites; prescribes high standards of conservation, community participation and sustainable management; and provides training;

**Acknowledging the** CARICOM Regional Cultural Policy of 1997 and the Saint George’s Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS;

**Recalling the** contribution made by the Global Strategy Action Plan for the Caribbean, which recognized the under-representation of the Caribbean on the World Heritage List;

**Further recalling** that the World Heritage Centre has organized ten regional and thematic expert meetings from 1996 to 2004 that have identified heritage sites and issues associated with the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Caribbean;

**Reaffirming the** Dominica Document 2001 that sets out a comprehensive vision on the heritage of the Caribbean and the application of the World Heritage Convention;

**Strongly supporting** the global strategic objectives in respect of Credibility, Conservation, Capacity Building and Communications, as articulated by the World Heritage Committee in 2002;

**Observing that** of US\$7,000,000 granted to States Parties between 1979 and 2002 upon their request from the World Heritage Fund and disbursed through International Assistance to Latin America and the Caribbean, only 15% was spent in the Caribbean where at present 14 out of 31 States Parties to the Convention are located;

**Acknowledging efforts** to address this disparity by the World Heritage Committee and UNESCO through the allocation of extra budgetary and bilateral resources, particularly through the generous support of the Government of the United Kingdom, who provided financial support for this conference;

**Call upon** the Governments of Caribbean States Parties to:

- (i) Provide the necessary financial, technical and administrative resources and structures required for States Parties to take full advantage of the benefits derived from the implementation of the World Heritage Convention;
- (ii) Undertake national inventories of natural and cultural heritage sites, prepare Tentative Lists and Nomination Dossiers for the most outstanding of these sites, with financial and technical assistance which may be obtained from the World Heritage Fund and other sources;
- (iii) Improve existing policies, legislation, and resource management systems within their countries;
- (iv) Encourage the Governments of the Bahamas and Trinidad and Tobago to ratify the Convention at the earliest possible opportunity;
- (v) Work together through appropriate mechanisms to enhance collaboration among Caribbean States Parties to the World Heritage Convention in the identification and preparation of properties for inscription on the World Heritage List, including serial, transboundary, and serial-transboundary nominations;
- (vi) Endorse the Action Plan prepared by their representatives at the Saint Lucia Conference under the strategic objectives of *Credibility, Conservation, Capacity Building and Communication*;
- (vii) Support and maximize opportunities for the implementation of the Caribbean Capacity Building Programme; and
- (viii) Maintain a Caribbean presence on the World Heritage Committee by ensuring that a Caribbean States Party puts itself forward when St. Lucia steps down in 2005;

**We also call upon** the World Heritage Committee to:

- (i) Approve the Periodic Report for Latin America and the Caribbean at its next meeting in 2004; and
- (ii) Approve the related Action Plan and Capacity Building Programme and allocate the requisite funding for their implementation at its next meeting in 2004;

**We encourage** all States Parties to the World Heritage Convention to collaborate with each other in the implementation of the Caribbean Action Plan;

**Finally, we call upon** UNESCO to strengthen its organizational structure in the Caribbean Region and to assist in accessing all necessary technical assistance for implementation of the Action Plan;

We acknowledge with gratitude the significant contribution by the World Heritage Centre for the advancement of the World Heritage Convention in the Caribbean;

We also express our appreciation to the Government of Saint Lucia for hosting and efficiently coordinating this most important event and congratulate them on their efforts in giving visibility to Caribbean considerations on the World Heritage Committee.

*Approved at Castries by the representatives of all States Parties and Associated States on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year Two Thousand and Four.*

**RESOLUTION ON  
OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE CARIBBEAN AND THE SMALL ISLAND  
DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS) OF THE REGION  
RE: WORLD HERITAGE DESIGNATION**

Representatives of the Caribbean and Small Island Developing States gathered at the *Conference on the Development of a Caribbean Action Plan in World Heritage, February 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>, 2004 at Castries, St. Lucia*, being mindful of the peculiarities and special circumstances of Caribbean and Small Island Developing States, resolve to call upon the World Heritage Committee to fully recognize the special status and realities of Small Island Caribbean States as has been pronounced through the Caribbean and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the region;

**We declare** that even in smallness, we possess rich diversity and resources, which have the potential to claim outstanding universal value;

**Bearing** in mind the diverse realities of the Caribbean region, which encompasses numerous Small Island States with extremely sensitive and vulnerable resources of significance to the heritage of humankind;

**Considering** that the resources residing within the Caribbean have been recognized by and accredited by the Ramsar Convention, the SPAW Protocol of the Cartagena Convention, and the Convention on Biological Diversity amongst others;

**Having** noted the options of serial, transboundary and serial-transboundary nominations;

**Be it resolved that:**

The representatives of the Caribbean States Parties and Associated States call upon the World Heritage Committee to note that we wish to explore fully the implications of these options and to report back to the World Heritage Committee in 2005;

**Be it further resolved that:**

We call upon the World Heritage Committee to appreciate that there is special value and uniqueness in the resources that exist within Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Caribbean States, and that consideration for inscription on the WH List be based on the existing criteria and objective merits.