

Distribution limited

WHC-06/30.COM/11D

Paris, 6 June 2006

Original: English/French

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Thirtieth Session

Vilnius, Lithuania
8-16 July 2006

Item 11 of the Provisional Agenda: Periodic Reports

11D. Progress report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Periodic Report for Asia-Pacific

SUMMARY

This document summarises the progress made to follow-up the recommendations made in the first cycle of Periodic Reporting for Asia and Pacific region in line with the two regional programmes – “Action Asia 2003-2009” and “World Heritage – Pacific 2009” – adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 27th session (UNESCO, 2003).

For further details on the Action Plans for Periodic Reporting follow-up adopted in the sub-regional workshops, please consult documents at the following Web address:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/periodicreporting/>

Draft Decision: 30 COM 11D, see Point II.

I. Progress made and planned activities

1. Since the 7th extraordinary session of the Committee (UNESCO, 2004) and according to the work plan adopted by the Committee in document *WHC-04/7EXT.COM/5D*, the following activities were carried out to follow-up on Periodic Reporting in Asia-Pacific Region, taking into account the comments and recommendations from the States Parties.

<i>Follow-up activities implemented</i>	<i>Timeframe</i>
1. Production and distribution of the CD-Rom version of the Periodic Report summaries of national Periodic Reports;	December 2004
2. Production and distribution of the Periodic Report publication- <i>The State of World Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region, 2003</i> in English and French	July 2005
3. Dissemination of the information gathered during the Periodic Report on a new Website at the World Heritage Centre, http://whc.unesco.org/en/periodicreporting/ . The Website includes information on country and site profiles, good models of official World Heritage documents, best practices and case studies on World Heritage activities in the Asia-Pacific Region	May 2005
4. Launching of the “World Heritage – Pacific 2009” Programme at the Regional Workshop held at Tongariro National Park in New Zealand, and implementation of several of its actions	October 2004 onwards
5. Organization of a sub-regional follow-up workshop in South Asia (Lahore, Pakistan)	April 2005
6. Organization of a sub-regional follow-up workshop for Central Asia (Almaty, Kazakhstan)	November 2005
7. Organization of a regional follow-up workshop in South East and North East Asia (Malacca, Malaysia)	December 2005

2. Four sub-regional workshops were organized by the World Heritage Centre in collaboration with the States Parties and the Advisory Bodies to develop and implement sub-regional Action Plans in line with the recommendations adopted during the first cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise and the two regional programmes “Action Asia 2003-2009” and “World Heritage – Pacific 2009”.
3. These workshops achieved the following objectives:
 - a) Providing country representatives and site managers with a training opportunity on the revised *Operational Guidelines* (2005) and provide a Forum

- to exchange opinions and concerns on conservation and management of cultural and natural World Heritage at the sub-regional level;
- b) Reviewing of issues emerged from the first cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise, pertaining to cultural and/or natural heritage properties of the sub-region;
 - c) Elaborating Action Plans in line with the four strategic objectives (4Cs) adopted by the Committee in 2002 (Credibility, Conservation, Capacity-building and Communication) to address the needs of States Parties concerned;
 - d) Presenting some useful tools to improve the state of conservation of cultural and/or natural heritage properties, such as risk assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and indicators for the monitoring of the state of conservation of World Heritage properties.
4. Due to budget constraints, it was unfortunately not possible to address issues on natural heritage protection and management at two of the above-mentioned sub-regional workshops, namely those in Lahore and Melaka.

A. Pacific sub-region

5. World Heritage within the Pacific sub-region, including 13 States Parties, is highly under-represented. Besides Australia and New Zealand, indeed, only one site features on the World Heritage List (i.e. East Rennell in the Solomon Islands). Moreover, until 2004, only Fiji had submitted its Tentative List. Following the Periodic Report in 2003, and the adoption of the “World Heritage – Pacific 2009” programme by the Committee at its 27th session (UNESCO, 2003), an Action Plan for its implementation was developed and agreed upon by all States Parties of the region at Tongariro National Park World Heritage Site (New Zealand), during a workshop held in October 2004. This Action Plan was endorsed by the Committee at its 7th extraordinary session (UNESCO, 2004).
6. Since then, the World Heritage Centre has cooperated closely with all States Parties to implement the Action Plan agreed upon at Tongariro National Park in New Zealand. Indeed, 10 activities corresponding to as many action points foreseen in the Action Plan have been implemented or are being carried out with funding through the World Heritage Fund, for a total amount of approximately USD 200,000. These activities concern the preparation of Tentative Lists and World Heritage nominations. Moreover, an additional USD 190,000 were mobilized from extra-budgetary sources to conduct a series of activities foreseen in the Action Plan. These included a workshop to define a thematic framework for possible cultural nominations (Vanuatu, 5 to 8 September 2005), four regional and national capacity-building and awareness workshops, and seminars to develop national World Heritage Strategies and Action Plans, as well as technical assistance to prepare Tentative Lists. As a result, three more Tentative Lists have been submitted by States Parties of the Pacific sub-region as of April 2006, while six more are under preparation. Moreover, five national Action Plans were developed in the framework of the Pacific 2009 Action Plan. It is expected that by mid 2007, all of the Pacific Island States Parties will have submitted their Tentative Lists, and that a number of nominations will have been submitted successfully. Three International Assistance requests for the preparation of World Heritage

nominations have been submitted this year, two by the Marshall Islands and one by Palau. With a view to continue supporting this process, the World Heritage Centre has developed proposals for USD 283,224, which have been submitted to donors for approval.

7. Needless to say, the implementation and backstopping of this large volume of projects, with their related administrative and communication workload, would necessitate the strengthening of human and financial resources available to the World Heritage Centre and to the UNESCO Office in Apia.

B. South and West Asia sub-region

8. A follow-up sub-regional workshop on the Periodic Reporting follow-up in South Asia was organized in Lahore, Pakistan, from 11 to 17 April 2005, in particular for cultural heritage sites. Participants included representatives at the highest level from the Governmental Agencies responsible for the protection of the cultural heritage from all the South Asian countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka). Owing to budgetary and organizational constraints, the scope of the Action Plan developed during this workshop concerns exclusively the cultural heritage.
9. Another sub-regional workshop for the follow-up on the Periodic Reporting Exercise in Central Asia was organized in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from 31 October to 4 November 2005. The event benefited from the participation of 4 States Parties in the sub-region (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan). An Action Plan for the better implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* in the sub-region was adopted by the participants, in which a highest priority was given to the following activities:
 - a) Nomination of natural heritage sites;
 - b) Serial Nomination of Silk Roads in Central Asia;
 - c) Serial Nomination for Central Asia Rock Art (Petroglyphs).
10. The Action Plan was endorsed by the higher authorities of the five Central Asian Countries in January 2006. Currently, a sub-regional workshop for the Serial Nomination for Silk Roads is under preparation. The workshop is scheduled to be held in October 2006 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, to adopt a strategy and common modality for the preparation of such serial nomination.

C. North-East and South-East Asia sub-region

11. The sub-regional Workshop on Periodic Reporting follow-up for Cultural World Heritage in North-East and South-East Asia took place at the Historic City of Malacca, Malaysia, from 12 to 16 December 2005. Some fifty participants from fourteen Asian States Parties and observers were present at this workshop. It should be noted that this was the first time that observers from Brunei Darussalam and Singapore participated in UNESCO activities on the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*. An Action Plan for Periodic Reporting Follow-up in North-East and South-East Asia was developed during the meeting and endorsed by the competent national authorities. Among the most interesting results of this consultation were:

- a) Proposals to organize a series of sub regional and/or national workshops on Sustainable Tourism Management in North-East and South-East Asia, with specific reference to visitor management and site interpretation;
- b) Integration of risk management into current cultural heritage conservation policy and use national and local resources and expertise in disaster risk analysis, planning, mitigation and response, both in general and specifically for World Heritage properties;
- c) Identification of a number of potential themes for serial and transboundary nominations in Asia and the Pacific region, such as the cultural routes of the Silk Road, Sacred Mountains, and a focus on site management planning for cultural heritage properties.

D. Follow-up

- 12. All these Action Plans define concrete actions that could be implemented by the countries concerned, either individually or collectively, in order to address the needs and priorities identified through the Periodic Reporting exercise. These actions are in line with the four Strategic Objectives set by the Committee and consistent with the main recommendations adopted by the Committee at the time of its examination of the Periodic Reporting exercise for Asia and the Pacific in 2003. It is expected that each State Party of the region would identify, within these Action Plans, its own priorities for implementation over the next years, and thus determine a “National” Action Plan as a basis for cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.
- 13. Also, these Action Plans should be implemented, to the extent possible, over the next few years, with resources from the States Parties’ own budgets, the World Heritage Fund and other possible external sources. A key indicator to assess implementation and facilitate the achievement of the stated objectives will be the establishment, within each of the Eastern Asian States Parties, of a national World Heritage coordinating mechanism, involving all concerned institutions, NGO and the academic sector. The setting up of these focal points for World Heritage activities within each country will greatly enhance their capacity to implement the *World Heritage Convention* in the region.
- 14. For further details on the Action Plans adopted in the sub-regional workshops, please consult documents at the following Web address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/periodicreporting/>

Planned follow-up activities	
1. Implementation of the national and sub-regional Action Plans adopted during the sub-regional workshops, with particular focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Institutional development for the establishment of a national World Heritage coordinating mechanism, involving all concerned agencies, NGO and the academic sector; 	2006 onwards

<p>b) Revision of the Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for properties covered in the first cycle, with re-examination and possible revision of site boundaries and management zones;</p> <p>c) Revision of national Tentative Lists to address more thoroughly the objectives of a balanced and credible World Heritage List;</p> <p>d) Development of integrated site management plans for World Heritage properties.</p> <p>2. Organization of training workshops to enhance conservation and management skills in the region, as well as development of thematic studies in co-operation with the UNESCO Field Offices, the Advisory Bodies, regional institutions and leading international conservation NGOs.</p> <p>The Action Plans adopted should be implemented with special focus on capacity-building of local and national authorities involved in World Heritage conservation and management. The assessment of the training activities undertaken during this period shall serve as one of the performance indicators of the two regional World Heritage programmes for follow-up on Periodic Reporting.</p>	
<p>3. Preparation for the next cycle of Periodic Reporting to the World Heritage Committee, in consultation with the national focal points, the concerned site managers and the Advisory Bodies;</p> <p>4. Assessment of the results of the regional World Heritage programmes.</p>	<p>2008-2009</p>

II. Draft Decision

Draft Decision: 30 COM 11D

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/11D,*
2. *Recalling decision 7 EXT.COM 5D adopted at its 7th extraordinary session (UNESCO, 2004),*
3. *Takes note of the outcomes of the sub-regional meetings and activities carried out in 2004 and 2005 for the implementation of the regional programmes “Action Asia 2003-2009” and “World Heritage-Pacific 2009”;*
4. *Requests the Asia-Pacific States Parties to implement the Action Plans adopted during the sub-regional meetings, with special focus on the establishment of a*

national World Heritage coordinating mechanism, involving all concerned institutions, NGOs and the academic sector;

5. *Strongly encourages the Asia-Pacific States Parties to take necessary action to strengthen regional cooperation mechanisms including partnerships and networks among countries in the region so as to address conservation challenges towards World Heritage in a more effective manner;*
6. *Invites the Director-General of UNESCO to consider means to strengthen the capacity of the UNESCO Office in Apia so as to assist the Pacific States Parties in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention;*
7. *Requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to support the Asia-Pacific States Parties in the implementation of the national and sub-regional Action Plans;*
8. *Requests the Director of the World Heritage Centre to report at its 31st session (2007) on the implementation of the recommendations of the Periodic Report for Asia Pacific.*