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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL  
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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**

**11E. Progress report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Periodic Report for Latin America and the Caribbean**

**SUMMARY**

This document provides a summary of the progress made in the implementation of the activities related to decisions **28 COM 16** and **28 COM INF.16** taken by the Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004) as well as those related to decision **WHC-04/7 EXT.COM/5E** for the follow-up to the Periodic Report in Latin America and the Caribbean, confirmed by decision **29 COM 5** adopted by the Committee at its 29th session (Durban, 2005).

**Draft Decision:** *30 COM 11E*, see Point VI.

## **I. Periodic Report publication**

1. The summary version of the Periodic Report was published and largely distributed in the region to initiate the consultation process with the States Parties. The World Heritage Centre published in May 2006, in the *World Heritage Papers* n°18, the full version of the Periodic Report in English, French and Spanish. This publication included the unabridged version of the Periodic Report and of the approved Action Plan for World Heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the decision of the World Heritage Committee relevant to the Periodic Report. Copies of these documents were made available to the regional offices and National Commissions and are being sent to the Permanent Delegations and members of the Committee separately.

## **II. Development of an Action Plan for World Heritage in Latin America**

2. As per the decision **28 COM.16** of the World Heritage Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), the World Heritage Centre convened a meeting of States Parties from Latin America and developed a detailed Action Plan for Latin America (Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 25-27 October 2004). The meeting was organized in collaboration with the Government of Colombia and resulted in the adoption of the Action Plan for the region. The World Heritage Centre also organized a sub-regional meeting to develop an Implementation Structure for the Caribbean Action Plan (Kingston, Jamaica, 27-29 September 2004), which was attended by twelve representatives of Caribbean States Parties and Associated Territories.
3. A further regional meeting, to create an implementation structure for the Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean, is scheduled to take place in Santiago de Chile (18-22 October 2006). To obtain the expected results, the meeting will be restricted to a small working group of experts from the countries which were, or are actually, members of the World Heritage Committee: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Mexico; plus a country from Central America (perhaps Costa Rica). A report of the meeting will be submitted to the Committee immediately after the meeting.

## **III. Training Seminars for Cultural and Natural Heritage in Central America**

4. After the Cartagena meeting for the development of an Action Plan for Latin America, and within the framework of follow-up activities to the Periodic Report for Latin America and the Caribbean, the World Heritage Centre organized a training seminar for natural and cultural heritage (San Jose, Costa Rica, 1-4 November 2004). This training activity, organized in collaboration with the Government of Costa Rica and the UNESCO Offices in San Jose and Montevideo, responded to the call made to States Parties by the World Heritage Committee at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), to work on the elaboration of harmonized Tentative Lists and the Action Plan for Latin America, to address thematic imbalances to increase representation of the Central American sub-region, while assisting States Parties in updating or finalizing their Tentative Lists. It was executed with local resource persons of the Advisory Bodies, the UNESCO Office in San Jose and World Heritage Centre staff, for which cultural

and natural heritage experts from all Central American countries and Mexico were invited. The summary report of the meeting was provided to the Committee.

5. At the request of the Permanent Delegation of Belize to UNESCO for International Technical Assistance to the Government of Belize for the development of a long-term (5 years) World Heritage national strategy, the World Heritage Centre organized a technical seminar (Belize, 1-4 March 2005). This seminar used an interactive and deductive approach with broad, in-depth analyses of World Heritage issues, including case studies from the Mesoamerican and Caribbean sub-regions. The meeting resulted in a national strategy, elaborated according to the 4 Strategic Objectives of the World Heritage Committee: Credibility, Conservation, Communication, Capacity Building. The scheme adopted for the development of this national strategy proved to be very useful and successful for the advancement of the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* and was therefore used in many other regions (e.g. Pacific and Arab States). It became a model for capacity building, sensibilisation and empowerment of national institutions by providing the means for a better understanding and implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*.
6. The World Heritage Centre held a training workshop on the Development of a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for the Fountain Cavern in Anguilla, at the request and entire sponsorship of the Government of the United Kingdom, (Anguilla, 20 - 22 June 2005). The meeting familiarized the local authorities of Anguilla with the nomination process, identified and analysed the key elements that should constitute the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value of the Fountain Cavern archaeological site. The Statement of Outstanding Universal Value is essential for World Heritage listing and therefore one of the crucial elements of a nomination file. It was considered that other Caribbean States Parties, currently working either on Tentative Lists or nomination files, would also benefit from this activity. Eight States Parties were invited to attend the meeting: Anguilla, Antigua, Bahamas, Belize, Jamaica, Netherlands Antilles, St. Vincent & The Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago. The workshop was divided into three main sections: (1) institutional framework; (2) methodological framework; and (3) working groups. For each session, a World Heritage Centre programme specialist was teamed with the UK experts. At the request of the State Party, an action plan, aimed at guiding the Anguilla authorities in establishing priorities, responsibilities and deadlines to carry forward the nomination file was elaborated.
7. The World Heritage Centre organized, in close collaboration with the UNESCO Guatemala office and IDAEH (Instituto de Antropología e Historia), a workshop on limestone conservation and restoration techniques, held at the National Park of Tikal, (Guatemala, 23-25 November 2005). During this meeting, UNESCO specialists, site managers, conservators and experts from Guatemala, Mexico, Belize and Honduras discussed methodology and guidelines for conservation and restoration of limestone, to be used with appropriate adaptations, in all limestone archeological sites in Mesoamerica. The workshop elaborated strategic guidelines for the development of a long-term and sustainable action plan for the conservation of limestone archaeological remains, in Tikal and other

Mesoamerican World Heritage sites and established parameters for a monitoring system for limestone archaeological remains.

8. A regional training workshop for the Caribbean was organized by the World Heritage Marine Programme in Saint Lucia (27 February-3 March 2006) to raise awareness of the *World Heritage Convention* as a potential marine conservation instrument in the Caribbean. The workshop supported the implementation of the Global Strategy and follow-up of the Periodic Reporting for the Caribbean, to address gaps in the World Heritage List and to promote representative Tentative Lists. The aim of the workshop was to provide training on the preparation of marine World Heritage nominations and to promote collaboration among States Parties, regional organizations and networks, for the conservation and nomination of marine sites from the Caribbean as World Heritage properties. Several regional or global organizations and 15 Caribbean States Parties participated in the workshop (total 40 persons). The workshop was financed by the MacArthur Foundation, the Funds-in-Trust of both the Governments of the Netherlands and Italy, and was organized with the Pitons Management Area World Heritage site in La Soufrière (Saint Lucia). The main outcomes of the workshop were strengthened awareness on potential marine World Heritage nominations from the region, the identification of serial and transboundary nomination opportunities, as well as the identification of supporting partners and networks. The recommendations of the workshop include a request to organize a regional workshop for the Caribbean to harmonize their Tentative Lists for natural heritage, with the assistance of the World Heritage Committee, as was requested in the Follow-up on the Periodic Report for Latin America and the Caribbean (Document *WHC-04/EXT.COM/5E*, p. 1).

#### **IV. Implementation structure for an Action Plan for World Heritage in the Caribbean**

9. A meeting was organized by the World Heritage Centre, with the Government of Jamaica and the UNESCO Office for the Caribbean, in Kingston, Jamaica (27-29 September 2004) to define an implementation structure for the Action Plan, and to identify the potential partners and to plan the development of the second phase of the Caribbean Capacity Building Programme, which focused on the training component. This was a follow-up to the sub-regional Conference in Saint Lucia (23-29 February 2004), during which a Caribbean Action Plan for World Heritage was developed, representatives from Caribbean States Parties and Associated Territories who had participated in the Saint Lucia Conference were invited and a summary report of this meeting was sent to the Committee.
10. The Havana Office, in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Kingston Office, organized a sub-regional meeting on the “Outstanding Universal Value, Authenticity and Integrity in a Caribbean Context” in Barbados (8-11 May 2006), which brought together representatives of 18 Caribbean States Parties and Advisory Bodies, natural and local experts and UNESCO specialists to discuss and identify the region’s unique heritage. The conference sought to identify the Outstanding Universal Value, Authenticity and Integrity of the regional heritage based on categories and themes. Potential sites in the region were discussed for nomination to the World Heritage List, supporting the Global Strategy to facilitate, harmonize and improve the preparation of nominations for

Caribbean heritage; and to provide a solid foundation for World Heritage conservation and management. The participants exchanged information, experiences and skills to empower national institutions in the Caribbean, by providing the means for a better understanding and implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*. Proposals were also made for the implementation of a Caribbean Action Plan in World Heritage. The outcome was a set of recommendations, in which the States Parties outlined/defined the main themes of Outstanding Universal Value for the Caribbean region.

11. The Havana Office organized, in close cooperation with the Division of Cultural Policies and Intercultural Dialogue of UNESCO and the World Heritage Centre, a meeting on “Places of Memory related to the Slave Trade and Slavery in the Latin Caribbean” (Havana, 17-19 May 2006), bringing together representatives from the countries of the Havana cluster (Haiti, Aruba, Dominican Republic and Cuba) as well as observers from Jamaica and Curacao. The participants endorsed the inventory methodology, which takes in account the work previously done in the region by the UNESCO Kingston office, and enriched it by introducing the intangible cultural elements associated with the physical property and the notion of cultural landscapes heritage, which had not taken into consideration in the previous inventory and World Heritage nominations. These Caribbean States Parties will submit selected “Places of Memory” by the end of the current year, during the first phase of implementation of the methodology (2006-2008). In the second phase (2008 onwards), the project may be extended, depending on the resources available, to the rest of the Caribbean, in accordance with the Global Strategy.

**V. Other important meetings organized/attended by the World Heritage Centre concerning the Action Plan for World Heritage in the Region**

12. The second Scientific Committee Meeting on the *Qhapaq Ñan* (Main Andean Road) was organized by the World Heritage Centre (Paris, 3-5 April 2006) to make an in-depth comparative analysis of the *Qhapaq Ñan* with similar cultural itineraries and systems of communication in the Ancient Empires, whether or not they are inscribed on the World Heritage List or the States Parties’ Tentative Lists. The Roman Roads, Maya Roads, trade routes of Mesopotamia, Silk Road and the Asian commercial routes were analyzed to provide criteria for comparison, and to establish the Outstanding Universal Value of the *Qhapaq Ñan*. This meeting was part of the process of coordination of the nomination being carried out since 2003 by six Andean countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, Latin America and Caribbean Unit, and financing through Spanish Funds-in-Trust to UNESCO. The focal points of the Andean countries and 15 international experts participated in the meeting. Two different working tables, one composed of experts in charge of the Andean Road debated the singularities and uniqueness of the Road, and the second discussed the analysis categories required to establish a critical comparison. The discussions enhanced the importance and originality of the *Qhapaq Ñan*, exemplifying the religious, territorial, administrative, political, social and cultural organization of the Inca Empire. The Road connected widespread territories covering some of the most extreme geographic conditions of the planet. The symbiosis between the extraordinary state of conservation of the archaeological heritage and the living

cultural heritage conveyed by the Road constitute the Outstanding Universal Value of the *Qhapaq Ñan*.

13. The World Heritage Centre organized, with the funding of Regional Council of Guadeloupe and that of the Spanish Funds-in-Trust to UNESCO, a “First Expert Meeting on Rock Art in the Caribbean and the UNESCO World Heritage List, for a possible serial trans-national World Heritage nomination of Amerindian Rock Art” (Basse Terre, Guadeloupe, 3-6 May 2006). Guadeloupe, which has the largest concentration of petroglyphs of the entire Caribbean, hosted this thematic meeting that followed the “International Seminar to identify archaeological sites in the Caribbean”, (Martinique, September 2004). Archaeologists and government experts examined ways to increase the diversity of this heritage on the World Heritage List. The meeting brought together representatives of ICOMOS International, the IACA, regional experts and institutional representatives from 18 Caribbean countries, who examined the most outstanding Rock Art sites in the area, highlighting their common Caribbean Pre-Columbian archaeological heritage. They divided the sites into five main categories: (1) Rock Art sites, (2) Amerindian archaeological sites of the Caribbean, (3) the period of contact sites, (4) cultural landscapes and (5) Caribbean African Heritage sites. The need for such a meeting emerged at the IACA Congress in Trinidad and Tobago (August 2005). The experts were divided into three geographical zones: the small Antilles, the large Antilles and the continental zone. A list was established of the most important Rock Art sites of each zone, in relation to their concentration, authenticity, integrity, state of conservation and national protection. This brought to evidence the existence of 16 sites, potentially candidates for trans-national serial nomination for inscription on the World Heritage List.

See: [http://whc.unesco.org/documents/publi\\_wh\\_papers\\_14\\_fr.pdf](http://whc.unesco.org/documents/publi_wh_papers_14_fr.pdf).

14. The World Heritage Centre organized an International Expert Meeting on “Tourism Planning at Major World Heritage Archaeological Sites”, within the framework agreement signed between the World Heritage Centre and Spain, (Alhambra, Granada, Spain, 20-23 February 2006), with the Spanish Ministry of Culture and the Andalusian Historic Heritage Institute of the Regional Government of Andalusia’s Culture Council. During the meeting experts demonstrated, through case studies on Machu Picchu, Angkor, Petra, Tikal, among others, that tourism can degrade the resources of a site through unsustainable visit practices, but may also become an ally of conservation. They determined that tourism can potentially increase cultural, social and economic resources, can help spread the message of the *World Heritage Convention* and can generate partners in the preservation of the Outstanding Universal Value of the sites inscribed on the World Heritage List. Sustainable tourist practices are of major concern in designing management plans for World Heritage sites. In fact, very few sites inscribed on the World Heritage List have tourist management plans integrated into their site management plans. The *Granada Declaration*, adopted by the meeting on 23 February 2006, established that operational guidelines for a future Plan of Action on Public Use Planning of World Heritage Archaeological Sites should be tabled with the World Heritage Committee and the States Parties to the *Convention*. Planning public use in a site aims to preserve the values for which the World Heritage site was inscribed. The

meeting concluded that acceptable limits to change should be set, so that development policies that rely on tourist use of heritage resources take into account the vulnerability of the site and preservation conditions. States Parties were invited to cooperate more closely with site managers and to call for greater specialized technical assistance in the implementation of the public use planning processes. Mechanisms are needed to guarantee the transfer of resources from both public and private tourism investments to heritage conservation. Cooperation and inclusion of local communities in the management planning process is essential, in order for tourism to take the institutional, socio-economic and cultural realities into account, in and around the sites.

15. The World Heritage Centre participated in the colloquium organized by the World Monuments Fund and Cornell University, (Panama, 20-21 January 2006) on the conservation options for the Panama Canal and its area of influence. Participants from various government agencies and several Panamanian cultural and natural heritage conservation NGOs carried out an assessment of heritage resources in the region, reviewed existing management and conservation frameworks, and explored ways to ensure the conservation of this heritage for future generations. The meeting helped build better coordination among local associations and stakeholders to move this initiative forward.

## **VI. Draft Decision**

### **Draft Decision: 30 COM 11E**

*The World heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC-06/30.COM/11E,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **28 COM 16** and **28 COM INF.16** adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), Decision **WHC-04/7 EXT.COM/5E** adopted at its 7th extraordinary session (UNESCO, 2004) and Decision **29 COM 5** adopted at its 29th session (Durban, 2005),*
3. *Takes note of the information provided by the World Heritage Centre on the progress made in the implementation of the above-mentioned Decisions for the follow-up to the Periodic Report in Latin America and the Caribbean;*
4. *Requests the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, the UNESCO regional offices and the States Parties of the region, to further develop the Caribbean and the Latin American Action Plans into operational work plans and identify partners for their implementation;*
5. *Invites the Director-General of UNESCO to review operations and staffing in the UNESCO regional offices to ensure that services are provided in a coordinated manner with the World Heritage Centre to assist the States parties in Latin America and the Caribbean in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and the respective Action Plans;*

6. *Calls upon the State Parties, the World Heritage Centre and all the other stakeholders involved in the protection and conservation of natural and cultural heritage of the region to establish a fund raising strategy to provide the necessary financial and human resources required to implement the World Heritage Action Plans;*
7. *Strongly encourages the States Parties, other World Heritage partners and stakeholders in the region to cooperate actively and take the necessary actions to follow up on the implementation of the Action Plans for World Heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean in a concerted and concrete manner;*
8. *Requests the Director of the World Heritage Centre to report at its 32nd session (2008) on the implementation of the Caribbean and Latin American Action Plans.*