



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

World Heritage

32 COM

Distribution Limited

WHC-08/32.COM/11D
Paris, 22 May 2008
Original: English/French

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Thirty second Session

Quebec City, Canada
2 – 10 July 2008

Item 11D of the Provisional Agenda: Periodic Report

11D: Follow up on the Periodic Report for Latin America and the Caribbean

SUMMARY

This document presents the follow-up activities to the Periodic Report for the Latin America and the Caribbean region according to Decision **30 COM 11E** (Vilnius, 2006).

Draft Decision: 32 COM 11D, see Point VI.

I. LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN PERIODIC REPORTING IN BRIEF

1. Between 2000 and 2003, 31 States Parties participated in the first cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise and submitted national reports on the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*. The Periodic Reporting exercise provided an overall assessment of the application of the *World Heritage Convention* by the States Parties, offered a real time picture of the state of conservation and the management and monitoring of World Heritage properties, and enhanced regional cooperation and exchange of information between States Parties in the region.
2. Following the Kingston (September 2004) and Cartagena (October 2004) meetings for the development of an Action Plan for the region and the "Periodic Report 2004. Latin America and the Caribbean" World Heritage Papers publication (May 2006), two other regional meetings were held to create an implementation structure for the Action Plan. These two meetings took place in Mexico (November 2006) and Chile (March 2007). The follow-up activities to the Periodic Report in the Latin America and Caribbean Region have been elaborated according to the regional programmes adopted by the World Heritage Committee, taking into account the comments and recommendations of the Latin America and Caribbean States Parties. Both meetings were financed by the extra-budgetary Spanish Funds-in-Trust.

II. PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN

A. Sub-regional meeting in Mexico City (4-5 November 2006)

3. Based on the decisions of the World Heritage Committee and the Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean (Cartagena, October 2004), the main objectives for this follow up meeting were to reflect upon the first cycle of Periodic Reporting in order to give a sub-regional point of view concerning past and future strategy, objectives and indicators to inform the next cycle of Periodic Reports.
4. The meeting involved the participation of institutes responsible for culture and nature in all six participating countries, natural and cultural heritage focal points at national level from Central America and Mexico, regional and IUCN/ICOMOS experts, UNESCO staff, diplomatic representation from certain State Parties, as well as the responsible authorities of World Heritage properties in Mexico.
5. Meeting outputs included the definition of the main points of action for the sub-region in respect to the Periodic Reporting and its follow up. An evaluation of the Periodical Report was prepared by the State Party representatives as well as setting recommendations for future reports. Strategic actions to identify specific activities to be carried out in the short term were defined, and results were organized in accordance with the Cartagena Action Plan, based on the 4C's and the implementation of the *Convention*.

B. Sub-regional meeting in Chile, March 2007

6. Subsequent to the sub-regional short term strategy definition developed in Mexico City, a regional meeting for the South American sub-region was held in Santiago de Chile (March 2007). Participants included experts from the Advisory Bodies and State Parties, in addition to authorities responsible for heritage preservation in the sub-region. Strategic actions to implement the Action Plan and identify specific activities to be carried out in the short term in the South American sub-region were defined.
7. The main activities range from the organization of international meetings and workshops for site managers and regional experts to the improvement of national

library archives documenting heritage preservation. The selection of successful pilot nomination projects (e.g. serial nomination *Qhapaq Ñan*) and certain management cases will be used as models for the region.

C. Meeting between the World Heritage Centre and Field Office Directors (October 2007)

8. The UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the Directors of UNESCO Field Offices held a meeting in Paris in order to start a joint strategy for the implementation of the Action Plan. Directors from the offices of Brasilia, Havana, Uruguay, Costa Rica and Jamaica assisted in the meeting.
9. The conclusions and subsequent analysis included the definition of the following main action lines in full coherence with the results of the above mentioned meetings: the need for participatory methodologies for World Heritage properties in the region; to establish a network of focal points for the implementation of the Periodic Report exercise; to increase the effectiveness of World Heritage management through building on analysis and experience; to collaborate with State Parties in the redefinition of national tentative lists (with a regional dimension); to propose methodologies to promote transnational nominations in the region and to develop capacity building strategies.

III. SOME HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION PLANS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN;

A. Serial Nomination on the “Qhapaq Ñan, Main Andean Road”, transnational, transboundary and serial nomination

10. In April 2004, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru requested the UNESCO World Heritage Centre/LAC Unit to be the general coordinator of the international process to put forward an ambitious nomination for the inscription of the Main Andean Road, or Qhapaq Ñan (QÑ), the most complex and extensive pre-Hispanic communication network in the Americas, on the World Heritage List. This system of longitudinal and latitudinal routes, which spanned over 23,000 kilometres, connected various productive, administrative and ceremonial centres and provided links between the centres of power and the warm valley zones as well as the deserts and the jungles at the furthestmost points of the Empire. This road network provided a rich fabric for all kinds of relationships throughout the territory and was an integral part of the power system, which unified the Empire both physically and organically.

Scientific Committee

11. A Scientific Committee composed of renowned scholars in anthropology, archaeology and ethnohistory, as well as national experts selected by their respective countries and the World Heritage Centre was established in April 2005. The purpose of this Committee was to define the outstanding value of the Main Andean Road. The Scientific Committee held its first meeting in Quito, Ecuador in April 2005. The Scientific Committee believes that the Qhapaq Ñan is one of the ancient world's greatest human achievements and, to this day, it serves as a link between ancestral and contemporary heritage in Andean America.
12. A second meeting of the Scientific Committee (Paris, 2006) sought to develop the basis of the **comparative study** for the nomination. Academic experts on the ancient routes of communication in the Ancient Empires: international experts on Maya studies, Roman Empire main roads, the trade routes of the Tigris and Euphrates basin, the Silk Route, Indus River communication trails and Greek maritime itineraries, all attended the meeting and reflected, with the Andean specialists, upon the categories of analysis to be fulfilled or a comprehensive comparative study.

Juridical Committee

13. Each country has identified a national expert in legal issues and a legal agreement is being prepared in order to assure the international conservation of the Main Andean Road.
14. The project has been selected by the World Heritage Committee as a best practice case study for trans-national serial nominations to the World Heritage List of UNESCO.

Some important figures of the project

- 300 hundred people working on daily basis (field registration, data base and ethnohistorical documentation);
- Six countries, six interdisciplinary National Commissions;
- 20 international experts: from the universities of Lima, Harvard, Buenos Aires; Canberra, Bogota, Michigan and Georgetown- Washington;
- 10 International Experts Meetings organized;
- Political Committee of Ambassadors;
- The project has been selected by the Summit of Head of State and Governments of Latin America as a fair programme for regional integration;
- Partnerships with: American Museum of Natural History, Getty Conservation Institute and the Smithsonian Museum (Washington);

B. Serial and trans-national nomination of the “Slave Route”

15. The project for the publication “The Slave Route, Memory Sites in the Caribbean” was a collaboration between the International Scientific Committee for the Slave Route, the Fernando Ortiz Foundation, the Intercultural Dialog Section of UNESCO and the Havana and Port-au-Prince UNESCO Offices. During this meeting the methodology for the inventory of the memory sites was approved and the multimedia publication (March 2008) is the final result of this work. It is important to remark that four of the memory sites are World Heritage Sites and another two of them are part of the Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity. A web version of the multimedia will be available in the section "La Ruta del Esclavo" on the "Portal de la Cultura para América Latina y el Caribe" (<http://www.lacult.org/>).
16. The World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Havana Office will propose a follow up Action Plan to collaborate with the countries in the region in a feasible serial World Heritage nomination.

C. Capacity building/training for natural and cultural heritage

17. The Havana UNESCO Office continued with the implementation of the project for the Caribbean Capacity Building Programme (CCBP). This programme is being developed in close coordination with the World Heritage Centre and other UNESCO offices in the region. The aim of the CCBP is oriented to enhance heritage management and protection within all the Caribbean islands by training professionals working in the field of heritage. It is also oriented to promote the inscription of natural and cultural sites on the World Heritage List.
18. An on-line Business Planning and Financial Sustainability for Protected Areas university level course was launched in January 2008, in English and Spanish. Sponsored in part by the World Heritage Fund, 50 professionals working with World Heritage sites throughout the LAC region received grants to take the course, offered by the State University of Washington.
19. The Latin American and Caribbean Congress on National Parks and Other Protected Areas was held in Bariloche, Argentina, in October 2007. The World Heritage Centre ran a workshop focusing on assembling the elements of a region wide capacity building platform, currently in development.

20. Capacity Building in Mexico targets 15 WH sites in order to develop and implement sustainable financing learning modules (LM) in World Heritage Sites. The programme was produced in the Spanish language for Spanish-speaking countries and was later translated to English for pilot testing in selected English-speaking countries. The state-of-the-art pilot modules address the step-by-step process of designing and implementing sustainable finance strategies for protected areas, and support the national protected area systems. The project combines the technical expertise of the World Heritage Centre, *Conservation Finance Alliance* (CFA), academic institutions and the advanced education technology of the Virtual University at the *Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey* (ITESM).
21. Capacity Building in Costa Rica. The intensive training course entitled "Ecosystem Management of Buffer Zones and Biological Corridors at the Landscape Level" was held in order to strengthen institutional capacity to manage World Heritage sites and other outstanding protected areas in the region. The objective was to increase participants' comprehension of key conservation and development issues and the development of their skills in the application of management and planning techniques.
22. Capacity building El Darien and Los Katios National Parks, Panamá/Colombia. Focused on transboundary protected area management by: increasing the knowledge of each WH site's management plan; defining common conservation strategies; exploring the possibility of developing a formal binational protection agreement between the two parks; transferring knowledge obtained from park exploration missions into management strategies to benefit both sides of the border.
23. Capacity Building in Sustainable Tourism, Colombia. The training was conceived as a participatory training programme, and brought together field experts from the local, regional and global communities to share information and good practices related to implementing sustainable tourism programmes. Participants were engaged in developing their knowledge base and acquiring new skills in order to implement successful sustainable tourism plans. The training was oriented towards people responsible of tourism projects and representatives from the tourism industry. It also focused on developing process skills for sustainable tourism principles, practices and case studies, and MPA management plans.
24. Capacity building "Ecosystem Management of Buffer Zones and Biological Corridors at the Landscape Level", Costa Rica. The course was held in order to strengthen institutional capacity to manage World Heritage sites and other protected areas of Outstanding Universal Value with the objective of increasing the participants' comprehension of key conservation and development issues.

D. Conservation and Management Plans

25. Within the framework of the International Assistance request, conservation projects for three World Heritage properties were approved: Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works in Chile, the Historic Centre of Santa Cruz de Mompox in Colombia, and the conservation works of Chan Chan Archaeological Zone in Peru.

IV. ACTIVITIES PROPOSED FOR IMPLEMENTATION

26. A Spanish version of the "Enhancing our Heritage" tool kit is being developed. It comprises of 12 distinct tools with worksheets and recommendations on methodology to help WH site managers carry out effective management practices, including a specific section on identifying and engaging local stakeholders, on identifying outstanding universal value, and in developing and monitoring indicators of integrity.

27. The preparatory mission for the conservation and preservation of the Tiwanaku Sanctuary in Bolivia (November 2007) involved the participation of four international experts in archaeology, anthropology and stone conservation to make an evaluation and draft a proposal for the conservation of the entire complex. The PRODOC document, an outcome of the mission, outlines key objectives which are in line with the Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean and the 4C's. The final PRODOC was approved by the Japanese Funds-in-Trust and, in accordance with the decentralization policy of UNESCO, it will be implemented by the Quito Office in close coordination with Headquarters and the State Party.

V. PERIODIC REPORT SECOND CYCLE

28. The field testing of the second cycle of the Periodic Report sections I and II took place from January to March 2008. The questionnaire was sent to Argentina, Paraguay and Peru in order to get their comments. By the time this report was elaborated, two States Parties had sent their remarks. The main recommendations were that the formulary be translated into Spanish; a clearer explanation of questions; the addition of a glossary and other technical issues related to the online electronic form.

VI. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision: 32 COM 11D

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/11D,*
2. *Recalling Decisions 28 COM 16 adopted at its 28th session (Suzhou, 2004), WHC-04/7 EXT.COM 5E adopted at its 7th extraordinary session (UNESCO, 2004) and 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. *Thanks the financial and technical collaboration provided by the Spanish Funds-in-Trust for the follow up of the Periodic Report exercise, and encourages the SFIT to continue its efforts towards the heritage conservation;*
5. *Requests the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, the UNESCO regional offices and the States Parties of the region, to continue implementing the Action Plans concentrating on the priorities identified at the sub-regional workshops of 2006 and 2007, and to submit revised Action Plans covering the period 2011-2016, including a budget estimate, for the consideration of the Committee at its 34rd Session in 2010;*
6. *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;*
7. *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;*
8. *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;

9. Requests the World Heritage Centre to report at its 34th session (2010) on the implementation of the Caribbean and Latin American Action Plans.