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World Heritage

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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, Canada
2 – 10 July 2008**

Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda: Progress reports on Funding initiatives

6B: Progress report on the creation of the Pacific World Heritage Fund

SUMMARY

This document contains information on developments regarding the establishment of a Pacific World Heritage Fund, since the 31st Session of the Committee in 2007.

Draft Decision: 32 COM 6.B, see Point 6

1. Following a regional meeting that took place from 19 to 23 February 2007 in Tongariro (New Zealand), States Parties of the Pacific region adopted a statement called "Appeal to the World Heritage Committee from Pacific Island States Parties", which was presented to the Committee at its 31st Session in Christchurch (New Zealand), in July 2007 (see Document *WHC-07/31.COM/11C*).
2. As part of this Appeal, the States Parties from the Pacific called for "The establishment of a permanent Pacific World Heritage Fund, as a financing mechanism to support effective implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Pacific" (paragraph 24) and for the "international community to support and contribute financially to (it)" (paragraph 25).
3. In its Decision **31 COM 11.C**, the Committee took note of, and welcomed "the Appeal presented by the States Parties of the Pacific and their renewed determination to identify and protect the outstanding heritage of their region including by establishing a Pacific World Heritage Fund". It also encouraged "States Parties and international donors to make financial contributions when the Fund is established". The Committee also requested that a progress report on the establishment of this Fund be submitted to its consideration at its 33rd Session in 2009.
4. The World Heritage Centre, similarly to what has been done in the case of the African World Heritage Fund, is ready to provide support to this initiative, within the limit of its possibilities. In this regard, an amount of 40,000 USD has been earmarked, out of the Regular Programme of UNESCO for 2008-2009, to contribute to a feasibility study for the setting up of this Fund. This activity will be implemented in the current biennium by the UNESCO Office in Apia (Samoa). Moreover, and with resources under the World Heritage Fund, and the Australian and the New Zealand Governments, the Centre plans to organise two regional meetings, in 2008 and 2009, where representatives of all the Pacific States will have an opportunity to discuss and agree ways and means to make progress towards the creation of this Fund.
5. It should be noted, in this regard, that the establishment of a Pacific World Heritage Fund along the lines of the one created in Africa, would depend primarily on the commitment of the States Parties of the region, who should take the lead in its development.

6. Draft Decision

Draft Decision 32 COM 6.B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-08/32.COM/6B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **31 COM 11.C**,*
3. *Takes note of the developments that have taken place with regard to the establishment of the Pacific World Heritage Fund;*
4. *Encourages the States Parties of the Pacific region to take a leading role for the development of this proposal, along the lines of the model adopted for the African World Heritage Fund;*
5. *Invites the States Parties of the Pacific region to present a progress report on this initiative, for the consideration of the Committee at its 33rd Session in 2009.*