



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/INF.5B
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 5 of the Provisional Agenda: Report of the World Heritage Centre on its activities and the implementation of the World Heritage Committee's Decisions

INF. 5B: Report from the Nordic World Heritage Foundation on its 2007 activities

SUMMARY

This document provides a report from the Nordic World Heritage Foundation on its 2007 activities in support of the *World Heritage Convention*.

I. Background

1. The Nordic World Heritage Office (NWHO) was established in 1996 with the objective of supporting the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* in the Nordic Countries and to support the World Heritage Committee in the follow up of the Global Strategy. On the basis of the recommendation of an external evaluation in 2001, and in accordance with Article 17 of the *Convention*, the Office became a Foundation (NWHF) in 2002. The creation of the Foundation was supported by the Nordic Governments and in conformity with the Guidelines concerning the creation of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO as adopted by the General Conference (**33C/Resolution 90**).
2. The General Conference of UNESCO at its 32nd session in October 2003 decided (**32 C/Resolution 36**), on the recommendation of UNESCO's Executive Board (**166 EX/Decision 3.4.4**), to grant the Foundation the status of a **regional centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category II centre)** and authorised the Director-General to enter into a cooperation agreement with the Foundation. The Agreement between UNESCO and NWHF states that the continuation of its status as a regional centre under the auspices of UNESCO will be subject to periodic review on the basis of an independent evaluation before the end of 2008, which is the end of the initial duration of the Agreement. The evaluation was undertaken in 2007. The renewal of the Agreement between UNESCO and Norway was subject to a decision at the 179th session of UNESCO's Executive Board to renew the grant of auspices of UNESCO to the Foundation.
3. NWHF's Board of Directors consists of six members representing the Nordic countries, UNESCO, and the private sector. UNESCO is not legally responsible for the Foundation and bears no liabilities of any kind, be it managerial, financial or otherwise, but may contribute to the Foundation's activities. The Foundation receives its annual basic funding from the Government of Norway. All initiatives of the Foundation are coordinated with the World Heritage Centre to avoid any duplication of efforts. To ensure that the priorities set by the World Heritage Committee are addressed and to secure transparency in all NWHF initiatives, the World Heritage Committee receives an annual report on the Foundation's activities.

II. Objectives and activities

4. NWHF contributes to the medium-term strategies of UNESCO, in particular the implementation of standard-setting instruments in the field of culture and enhancing the linkages between culture, capacity-building and sharing of knowledge. The Foundation has the following purposes: (a) acts as a focal point bringing Nordic countries together in their collective attempt to fulfil the intentions and requirements of the *Convention*; (b) support the World Heritage Centre by facilitating technical expertise, disseminating information and contributing to innovative projects, all in support of the *Convention* and the World Heritage Committee's Global Strategy; and (c) mobilize funds from bi- and multilateral sources and facilitate assistance for natural and cultural World Heritage conservation efforts in developing countries.
5. **As a focal point for the Nordic countries**, NWHF provides advice for the Nordic States Parties, local government and other interested parties. NWHF facilitates regional cooperation in the Nordic countries by coordinating Periodic Reporting and other World

Heritage activities, and seeks to increase awareness of the *World Heritage Convention* among heritage experts, decision-makers and the general public.

- Key activities in 2007 included/ the production and distribution of a World Heritage Newsletter to all Nordic site managers; organising a Nordic meeting on the follow-up of Periodic Reporting in the Nordic-Baltic region.
6. NWHF supports the implementation of the World Heritage Committee's **Global Strategy** (1994) by raising funds for World Heritage projects and programmes in developing countries that are underrepresented on the World Heritage List, facilitating sustainable tourism as a tool for development, and encouraging mainstreaming of World Heritage as a resource in poverty reduction strategies.
- Key activities in 2007 included/ finalising the project "Buddhist Sangha"; mobilising support for a for Natural Heritage in the Great Rift Valley; mobilising support for Natural Heritage at Madagascar; organising expert meetings for promoting World Heritage in the Arctic and development of programme to strengthen sustainable tourism in developing countries.
7. In **mobilising funds** from bi- and multilateral sources for natural and cultural World Heritage conservation efforts, NWHF seeks to be updated on donor policies and increase awareness of development issues related to the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*.
- Key activities in 2007 included/ presentation of Natural Heritage programme to Nordic donors towards a concerted effort by Nordic countries for the implementation of the Global Strategy in developing countries; cooperation with global World Heritage resources including the African World Heritage Fund and other regional initiatives.

Funds mobilised for projects 2007 (in thousands)

Project / Activity	Partner	NOK	USD ¹
Promoting World Heritage in Madagascar, Phase 2. Community based project for the future development of two nominations for inscription on the World Heritage List.	UNESCO/ WHC/ Government of Norway	1.500	250
Natural World Heritage in Southern and Eastern Africa , Phase 2. Support for the development of new nominations for inscription on the World Heritage List from the Great Rift Valley region.	UNESCO/ WHC/ UNEP/ Government of Norway	1.300	216
Pilot project for biodiversity and sustainable tourism. Identification of resources to enforce the linkage between conservation and sustainable tourism for improving livelihoods of local communities.	UNESCO/ WHC/ Government of Norway	933	155
Total		3.733	621

¹ 1 USD = 6 NOK