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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-third session

Sevilla, Spain  
20 – 30 June 2009

#### **Item 11B of the Provisional Agenda: Follow up on the Periodic Report for Asia and the Pacific**

#### **SUMMARY**

This document provides an update on progress achieved in implementing regional programmes in Asia and the Pacific since the last report submitted to the Committee (31<sup>st</sup> session in 2007). It is divided into three parts. Part I overviews progress in the Asia sub-region against the Action-Asia 2003-2009, and identifies priority actions for the next biennium 2010-2012. Part II overviews progress made in the Pacific sub-region against the World Heritage - Pacific 2009 Programme and its Action Plan, and the status of the next medium term Pacific programme to follow on from Pacific 2009. A "Framework for Action in the Pacific Region 2010-2015", developed by the Pacific States Parties in a sub-regional workshop held at Cairns (Australia) in October 2008, is included in Annex I. Part III includes proposed activities for implementation in the Asia Pacific Region for the biennium 2010-2012; Part IV contains the draft decision.

Moreover, a Table providing a detailed account of activities carried out in the Pacific region over the past two years is accessible online through the following link: <http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/activities/documents/activity-5-4.pdf>

See also: Document *WHC-09/33.COM/6.B* (Progress Report on the creation of the Pacific World Heritage Fund).

**Draft Decision: 31 COM 11B, see Part IV.**

## **PART I – ASIA SUB-REGION**

### **A. Background**

1. Following the results of the first cycle of periodic reporting for the Asia-Pacific region in 2003, the ActionAsia 2003-2009 Programme was developed to assist Asian States Parties to strengthen the application of the World Heritage Convention and to enhance the conservation process at Asian World Heritage properties, particularly those inscribed prior to 1994. The World Heritage Committee approved Action-Asia 2003-2009 at its 27th Session (UNESCO, 2003). The main objectives of the Action-Asia Programme were to improve the representivity of Asian natural and cultural heritage on the World Heritage List, strengthen legal mechanisms to adequately protect World Heritage, upgrade conservation and management skills to better conserve World Heritage, respond to the challenge of poverty alleviation in the region, and address challenges of information-sharing across the region.
2. A series of prioritized Action Plans were developed by Asian States Parties during sub-regional workshops for the follow-up on the 2003 Periodic Reporting exercise (Pakistan April 2005 and Malaysia December 2005), to facilitate the implementation of ActionAsia 2003-2009 for West-Central Asia, North-East Asia, South-East Asia and South Asia. These Action Plans have been endorsed by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006). Each Action Plan contains a list of activities to be implemented up to 2009 and is available at the following Web addresses:  
East Asia: <http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/events/documents/event-251-2.pdf>  
South Asia: <http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/events/documents/event-120-1.pdf>  
Central Asia: cultural: <http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/pages/documents/document-287-3.pdf>  
Central Asia: natural: <http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/pages/documents/document-287-4.pdf>

### **B. Progress in the Asia sub-region**

3. With regard to “Credibility”, twelve properties from the Asia sub-region have been inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2007 and 2008, including properties belonging to under-represented categories such as cultural landscapes, steppes and sites from Central Asia, while ten new Nominations to the World Heritage List from the Asia sub-region have been received in 2009. Amongst all these, seven received support from the World Heritage Centre through preparatory assistance and extra-budgetary funds. The Centre also provided assistance to two of the nominations currently being evaluated.
4. Five updated tentative lists have been submitted to the World Heritage Centre between 2007-2009 by Iran, the Philippines, Nepal, India and Turkmenistan.
5. A major focus has been placed on the formulation of trans-boundary nominations in the Asia sub-region, and the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS have worked closely with the States Parties to identify potential serial and/or trans-national sites for nomination. Three major trans-boundary nominations have been progressed including: a) the Silk Roads serial nomination (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and China) has been progressed through the preparation and harmonisation of a nomination dossier for the Silk Roads, advancement of an agreed Statement of outstanding universal value, comparative studies and coordination of management mechanisms between the associated countries; b) the Central Asian Petroglyph Sites serial nomination (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) has been progressed through the development of a Concept paper for the nomination and a thematic study on rock art in Central Asia; and c) the Altai Mountains (China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Russian Federation) has been progressed through the establishment of the ‘Altai Group’ which was given the mandate to further discuss trans-boundary cooperation between China,

Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Russian Federation. All these initiatives have benefited from support under the World Heritage Fund and are the first trans-boundary proposals for the Asia region. The initiative concerning the Silk Roads is open to other States Parties from the South- and East-Asia sub-regions and beyond, with a view to possible future extensions of the trans-boundary properties.

6. In terms of “Conservation”, a large number of projects within the Asia region has been undertaken mostly through funding provided by extra-budgetary resources. Projects carried out include: a) Research and preservation activities for the safeguarding of the Buddhist Monastery in Ajina Tepa (Tajikistan) – Japan Funds-in-Trust; b) Technical cooperation project to improve the state of conservation of the Borobudur Temple Compound (Indonesia) – Netherlands Funds-in-Trust; c) Scientific analyses, provision of site security and demining activities undertaken within the framework of a project to ensure the long term stability of the Giant Buddha niches at the Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) – Japan Funds-in-Trust; d) Conservation work on the mural paintings at the Koguryo Tombs and mural paintings (Democratic Republic of Korea) – Korea Funds-in-Trust; e) Development of technical recommendations by an Expert working group for ongoing conservation of the Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan) – Italian and Swiss Funds-in-Trust; f) Third phase of conservation work on the Bayon Temple at Angkor (Cambodia) – Japan Funds-in-Trust; and g) Second phase of conservation work at My Son Sanctuary (Vietnam) – Italy Funds-in-Trust.
7. Other conservation and reconstruction projects were carried out for Mount Qincheng and Dujiangyan Irrigation System (China) and Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries (China) which were both damaged by the Sichuan earthquake of May 2008 – both through Emergency Assistance under the World Heritage Fund, and with extra-budgetary funding from the Rapid Response Facility (RRF) and Mercedes-Benz. Several advisory missions were organised, thanks to funding from the Italian Funds-in-Trust, including to the World Heritage property of Bisotun (Islamic Republic of Iran) to advise on methods for conservation and monitoring of stone-carved inscriptions threatened by water, and to the Orkhon Valley Cultural Landscape (Mongolia) to advise on the reconstruction of the Tsogchin Temple at the property.
8. With respect to “Capacity-Building”, the UNESCO General Conference approved at its 34th session in October 2007 the establishment of a ‘World Heritage Institute for Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region’ (WHITR-AP) in China, as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO. The first meeting of the Governing Board of this Institute took place from 23 to 24 July 2008 in Beijing and the second Board meeting is scheduled for early June 2009. WHITR-AP has since organized the first International Training Course on Management Planning for Cultural Heritage at Tongji University of Shanghai, China (November – December 2008). It also organized an International Forum on World Heritage Protection in Suzhou, China (December 2008) and assisted the Chinese Ministry of Housing to organize a national workshop on the Tentative List of Natural and Mixed World Heritage, resulting in the adoption of an Action Plan for revising China’s national Tentative List (January 2009). Starting from September 2009, WHITR-AP will offer a one -year Advanced Course (Certificate and Diploma degrees) in World Heritage Conservation and Management at Peking University, China.
9. Several regional, sub-regional and national workshops have been delivered across the Asia region, which have contributed directly to capacity building. These include: the “UNESCO Cultural Heritage Specialist Guide Training and Certification Programme” for improving skills of heritage guides at World Heritage Sites in South-east and East Asia (Cambodia, Vietnam and Thailand, 2008); three national and sub-regional training activities on sustainable tourism management at heritage sites for site managers (Cambodia,

Thailand and Macao SAR, China, January 2008 and February 2009) – this also resulted in the translation of training material into Chinese, Khmer, Laotian and Thai; a sub-regional consultation workshop to review standards and plan for national training programmes (Macao SAR, China, January 2009); a series of workshops on the Conservation and Management of Persian, Timurid and Moghul Architecture (Iran 2007, Uzbekistan 2008 and India, April 2009); Site management training of Indian Site Managers (Hampi and Bangalore, India, June 2008); training workshop on implementing an integrated values-based management at Orkhon Valley Cultural Landscape (Mongolia, September 2008); international seminar on the Conservation of Painted Surfaces on Wooden Structures in South East Asia (Beijing, China, October – November 2008); Seventh Expert Working Group on the preservation of Bamiyan (Munich, Germany, June 2008); and a workshop on the preparation of an Integrated Management Plan for Lumbini (Nepal, September 2008). The “development of working tools/best practices to facilitate the implementation of the Convention”, for which an amount of 20,000 USD had been approved by the World Heritage Committee in 2007, could not be carried out, pending the revision of the formats for statements of outstanding universal value and periodic reporting and the completion of the World Heritage Resource Manuals. Instead, these resources will be used to translate into Russian documentation concerning trans-boundary initiatives in Central Asia, to facilitate the involvement of the concerned States Parties.

### **C. Towards the Periodic Reporting**

10. The Asia Pacific region is about to commence the next cycle of periodic reporting, and in this context the World Heritage Centre has reviewed the situation of all properties within the Asia Pacific region with respect to the status of preparation of Statements of outstanding universal value. In light of the results, the World Heritage Centre is planning a series of sub-regional workshops to train the States Parties in developing Statements of outstanding universal value, and in the use of the new questionnaire, with a view towards having the Statements in place by the time the Committee examines the periodic report for Asia Pacific in 2012. A second round of workshops in each sub-region is also proposed during the second half of 2011 to enable the States Parties of Asia and the Pacific to take stock of the preliminary results of the Periodic Reporting exercise (having filled their questionnaire by July 2011), and define jointly the priorities for the regional programmes to be implemented. It is proposed that these workshops be funded through the World Heritage Fund, the regular programme of UNESCO (including by the UNESCO Field Offices), and with extra-budgetary resources. A request for funding is included in Part III of this document to support the organisation of these sub-regional meetings (see page 7 below).

## **PART II – PACIFIC REGION**

### **D. Background**

11. The Pacific continues to be one of the most under-represented regions on the World Heritage List. To redress this situation, a World Heritage - Pacific 2009 Programme was developed in 2003, following the results of the first cycle of periodic reporting for the Asia-Pacific region. The World Heritage Committee approved this Programme at its 27th Session (UNESCO, 2003). The main objectives are to ensure the ratification of the Convention by all Pacific Countries, improve representation of the region on the World Heritage List and build capacity in implementing the Convention and conserving heritage properties.
12. An Action Plan to implement Pacific 2009 was developed by representatives of all Pacific countries and concerned institutions at a workshop in Tongariro, New Zealand in October

2004. The Action Plan, endorsed by the World Heritage Committee at its 7th Extraordinary Session (UNESCO, 2004), contains a list of activities to be implemented up to 2009 and is accessible at the following Web address:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/5/> (in English); and

<http://whc.unesco.org/fr/activites/5/> (in French).

13. Strategies for World Heritage in the Pacific region beyond 2009 are now being attended to. The Pacific World Heritage Action Plan 2010-2015 will be developed in conjunction with State Parties and other bodies during 2009, and will be finalized for consideration by the World Heritage Committee in 2010.

#### **E. Progress in the implementation of the Pacific 2009 Action Plan**

14. Since its approval in December 2004, considerable progress has been made in the implementation of the Pacific 2009 Action Plan. A significant amount of effort has been put into capacity building in the region and increasing representation of the Pacific region on the World Heritage List. With the limited number of World Heritage sites in the Pacific, conservation activities have also been applied to heritage more generally, with the resultant effect being to prepare the region for further nominations. Some of the main activities undertaken under the Pacific 2009 Action Plan and the results are outlined below, with additional activities carried out by States Parties summarized in table form within the following document: <http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/activities/documents/activity-5-4.pdf>

15. In terms of “Credibility”, the Pacific region now has 14 States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, compared to only two in 2000, with the Cook Islands becoming the 186th State Party to the *Convention* on 16 April 2009.

16. In 2008, three sites from the Pacific were inscribed on the World Heritage List including: Kuk Early Agricultural Site (Papua New Guinea), Chief Roi Mata’s Domain (Vanuatu) and Lagoons of New Caledonia (France). Moreover, six new nominations to the World Heritage List from the Pacific region have been received in 2009, including: Phoenix Island Protected Area (Kiribati), Australian Convict Sites (Australia), Bikini Atoll (Marshall Islands), Ailinginae Atoll – Aelonin-ae “Island of Currents” (Marshall Islands), Yapese Stone Money Sites in Palau and Yap (a trans-boundary nomination from Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia), and Papahānaumokuākea: Marine National Monument, Hawaii (United States of America). Six of these Nominations were prepared with support from the World Heritage Centre. Two of these, unfortunately, have been assessed as “incomplete” by the World Heritage Centre, which however will work closely with the concerned States parties to ensure that the dossiers are in good order for the next cycle.

17. Ten of the twelve Pacific Island Countries have now submitted Tentative Lists, compared with only one in 2004. The World Heritage Centre is working with the remaining two PICs to progress their Tentative Lists.

18. The ICOMOS Thematic Study ‘Cultural Landscapes of the Pacific Islands’ was published in April 2008 and is the first regional thematic study in the Pacific. The preparation of a second Thematic Study, most likely on ceremonial sites or sites associated to voyaging skills in the Pacific, will be launched in the second half of 2009. A further study on ‘Cost-Benefit Analysis of World Heritage Nominations’ is currently ongoing and examines the cost-benefits to countries in supporting World Heritage nominations in the Pacific using Vanuatu’s Chief Roi Mata’s Domain as a case study.

19. Under “Capacity-Building”, a series of regional and sub-regional workshops have been facilitated within the Pacific sub-region to build capacity and enhance communication, including: sub-regional capacity building workshop on the process for the nomination of

properties to the World Heritage List (Samoa, April 2006); 'Our Sea of Islands' sub-regional marine forum (Hawaii, February 2007); 'Pacific Islands World Heritage sub-regional workshops' (Tongariro, February 2007 and Cairns, October 2008). Through extra-budgetary assistance four World Heritage National Strategic workshops have been held in Palau, Papua New Guinea, Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands.

20. Over twelve cultural twinning programs and study tours were reported to have been undertaken between Pacific Island Countries in order to build capacity cross-nation and improve communication.  
See <http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/activities/documents/activity-5-4.pdf> for further details on these programs.
21. For "Communication", the regional version of the World Heritage Education Kit, entitled "Our Pacific Heritage", was launched in 2004. The Kit serves as a vital resource to create World Heritage awareness among school students and young people in the Pacific. Two training workshops on the use of the Kit for secondary school teachers from the Pacific Island Countries were held in Palau and Fiji in March 2005. Samoa has been actively delivering the program within local schools since April 2005.
22. The above-mentioned Pacific Regional Workshop at Tongariro National Park, New Zealand (February 2007) provided an opportunity for the introduction of the fifth "C" for Community, which New Zealand proposed to be added to the four Strategic Objectives of the World Heritage Convention (See document WHC-07/31 COM/13B). The fifth C was adopted by the Committee in 2007 (Decision 31 COM 13B).
23. Capacity building, awareness-raising and communication continue to be the main challenges for the Pacific sub-region. Capacity building programs should prioritize developing skills at all levels within Pacific Island Countries. Awareness raising activities are required for both external parties to the Pacific region such as States Parties located outside the region and internally within the Pacific Island Countries. Communication activities should focus on increased flow of heritage management related information between the Pacific Island Countries.

## **F. Proposals for the Pacific Programme and Action Plan 2010–2015**

24. At its 31st session in 2007, the Committee had invited the States Parties of the Pacific to develop a new Action Plan covering the period 2010-2015 and present this for its consideration at the 33rd session in 2009. A Pacific Islands World Heritage Workshop was held on 13-17 October 2008 in Cairns, Australia, organized by the Australian Department of Environment and Heritage in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the New Zealand Government. The workshop resulted in the development by the States Parties of '*A Framework for Action on World Heritage 2010-2015*'. The Framework, enclosed in Annex I to this document, identifies the priorities of the Pacific Islands region for the medium term as strengthening the implementation of the *Convention* and increasing local, regional and global awareness, recognition and support for conservation of Pacific heritage. The Framework includes a draft preamble and action plan which will form the basis of the next medium term Action Plan (2010–2015) to succeed the Action Plan - Pacific 2009. The draft preamble and action plan will be completed and finalised jointly by the States Parties in November 2009, on the occasion of a regional meeting to be held in Maupiti, French Polynesia, and presented to the Committee at its 34th session in 2010.
25. The Committee had also requested States Parties of the Pacific to report on progress made towards the establishment of a proposed Pacific World Heritage Fund. In this respect, at the Cairns Workshop, a statement of purpose and Terms of Reference for a feasibility study on the development and implementation of sustainable funding arrangements for

heritage conservation in the Pacific were developed. Information on this is provided separately under item 6B (see Document WHC-09/33.COM/6.B on Progress Report on the creation of the Pacific World Heritage Fund).

26. A Funds-in-Trust Agreement was established between the Australian Government and UNESCO in August 2008, with a special focus on supporting activities related to the World Heritage Convention in the Asia-Pacific Region. The first activities carried out under the Australian FIT included the 'Pacific Islands World Heritage Workshop' in Cairns, Australia (October 2008) while a number of other initiatives contributing to the objectives of the enclosed "Framework for Action" are being developed in the Pacific. In Asia, amongst other activities, the Australian FIT is also expected to support the development of a heritage management framework for the World Heritage property of Angkor (Cambodia).

### **PART III – ACTIVITIES PROPOSED FOR IMPLEMENTATION UNDER THE WORLD HERITAGE FUND IN THE BIENNIUM 2010 – 2011 IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION**

27. With a view to support the preparations for the next cycle of the Periodic reporting exercise in the Asia and Pacific region, and contributing to the objectives identified by the States Parties in the 'Framework for Action on World Heritage 2010–2015' (see Annex I), the following activities are proposed for implementation during the coming biennium 2010-2011, with support under the World Heritage Fund:

| Activity description   | Estimated Cost (USD) |
|--|----------------------|
| <b>Asia:</b> Four sub-regional meetings are proposed for the Asia sub-region in 2010 and 2011 (two in South and West Asia, and two in East Asia), first to introduce the new format and questionnaire and train States Parties in drafting Statements of OUV, then for analyzing the results of the PR and define priorities for a new regional programme, in view of their presentation to the Committee at its 36th session in 2012.   | \$ 130,000           |
| <b>Pacific:</b> Two sub-regional meetings are proposed for the Pacific sub-region in 2010 and 2011 for building capacity among States Parties in preparing nominations and managing heritage properties, analyzing the results of the Periodic Reporting and to reorient accordingly the Action Plan 2010-2015, and monitoring progress in its implementation, with a view to presenting the outcomes to the Committee at its 36th session in 2012. This activity will benefit from complementary support under extra-budgetary resources, notably the Australian FIT with UNESCO. | \$ 70,000            |
| Total  | \$200,000            |

28. The follow up activities under the Action Plan will be implemented in close collaboration with ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN. Additional funding support for the sub-regional workshops on the preparation of Statements of outstanding universal value in the Pacific sub-region has already been obtained thanks to the contribution from the Australian government. Additional support will also be sought to further complement World Heritage Fund resources for Asia sub-region activities.

### **PART IV – DRAFT DECISION**

#### **Draft Decision:**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined document WHC-09/33.COM/11B,*

2. *Recalling its Decisions **27 COM 20B.4**, **30 COM 11D** and **31 COM 11C** adopted at its 27th (UNESCO, 2003), 30th (Vilnius, 2006), and 31st(Christchurch, 2007) sessions respectively,*
3. *Notes with satisfaction the significant progress achieved in implementing the World Heritage Convention in the Asia Pacific region through the execution of the Action-Asia 2003-2009 sub-regional Action Plans and the Pacific Action Plan 2009, and commends the States Parties of the Asia Pacific region, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, as well as the concerned institutions and donors for their contribution to the attainment of these positive results;*
4. *Encourages the international community, in co-operation with the World Heritage Centre, to continue its technical and financial support for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention within the Asia Pacific region;*
5. *Takes note of and welcomes the 'Framework for Action on World Heritage 2010-2015' prepared by the States Parties of the Pacific and their commitment to protecting the outstanding heritage of their region for future generations;*
6. *Invites the States Parties of the Pacific region to continue developing the Pacific Programme for 2010-2015 and to submit the finalised Action Plan covering the period 2010-2015, including a budget estimate, for the consideration of the Committee at its 34th session in 2010;*
7. *Decides to allocate the amount of \$200,000 USD from the World Heritage Fund for the implementation of the activities indicated in Section III of Document WHC-09/33.COM/11B;*
8. *Requests the World Heritage Centre to submit a report on the development of the Action Plan Pacific 2010-2015, for consideration by the Committee at its 34th session in 2010.*

## Annex I

# A Framework for Action on World Heritage 2010 – 2015<sup>1</sup>

### Vision for 2015

We share a dream that our Pacific Islands' heritage is protected and enriched for future generations.

### Preamble

We the people of the Pacific Islands offer a unique contribution to the World Heritage community, through the enormous wealth of cultural diversity, as well as of the island and marine biodiversity of our region, much of which is endemic, and covers one third of the earth's surface.

This extraordinary heritage, moreover, is often managed through traditional practices that reinforce the inseparable relationship between communities, cultures and environment that underpin sustainable development.<sup>2</sup>

Noting our achievements since the creation of the Pacific World Heritage Action Plan 2004 – 2009, including:

- Twelve Pacific islands countries (out of fifteen) have ratified the Convention, including Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.
- Nine States Parties have submitted their Tentative Lists, including Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu.
- Three properties from Pacific Small Islands State Parties are now inscribed on the World Heritage List, i.e. Kuk Early Agricultural Site, PNG; Chief Roi Mata's Domain, Vanuatu, in addition to East Rennell, Solomon Islands, which was inscribed in 1998.
- Four Properties from Pacific territories of non-Pacific State Parties are now inscribed on the World Heritage List, i.e. Lagoon of New Caledonia: Reef Diversity and Associated Ecosystem, France, in addition to Hawaiian Islands Volcanos, USA; Henderson Island, UK; Rapa Nui, Chile, which had been inscribed prior to 2004;
- A greatly increased awareness and understanding of the World Heritage Convention has been achieved;
- A regional network of heritage practitioners was developed;
- A shared long-term vision on World Heritage for the region was established and communicated, through the so-called Pacific Appeal (see note 2).

### Common Challenges to the Pacific region

We recognise that the Pacific region continues to be the most under-represented region on the World Heritage List.

In redressing this imbalance in representation and endeavouring to continue to build on the aforementioned achievements the Pacific Island States face major challenges. These include:

- limited awareness of Pacific cultural and natural heritage outside the region

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<sup>1</sup> This document was prepared jointly by the States Parties of the Pacific region at the World Heritage Regional Workshop held in Cairns, Australia, from 13 to 17 October 2008

<sup>2</sup> See also the "*Appeal to the World Heritage Committee from Pacific Island State Parties*" (Pacific Appeal) contained in Document WHC-07/31COM/11C, Annex 1.

- lack of adequate representation of the unique and special heritage of the Pacific on the World Heritage List
- large geographic area, isolation and resource limitations that restrict access to information and assistance and the ability of Pacific people to contribute to global forums
- the character and scope of the UNESCO and the World Heritage Convention administration for the Pacific region, which masks some of the specific important national and regional heritage issues:
  - some people are represented by States Parties outside the region (UK, France, USA, Chile) which can limit their ability to have sites inscribed on the World Heritage List
- limited resources, skills and capacities within communities and institutions to adequately manage the region's cultural and natural heritage
- a need for increased awareness within communities of the great value that World Heritage Convention contributes to the protection and vitality of cultural and biological diversity
- political instability and a lack of good governance, which are significant barriers to heritage conservation in general, and World Heritage implementation in particular
- greater external challenges and threats in the Pacific than in most other regions of the world, with less capacity to respond to their impacts. Examples of these external influences include financial instability, globalisation of society and economy, technological development, commercialisation, energy supply and demand, natural disasters and tourism growth.
- climate change is of particular concern because the Pacific region is especially vulnerable to its impacts and faces many difficulties in adapting to and mitigating its effects:
  - the impacts on the environment and resources (both tangible and intangible) are widespread and sometimes difficult to monitor (e.g. spread of pests and diseases), which can limit our ability to protect heritage
  - World Heritage needs to link to, and support, the national plans for adaptation to and mitigation of climate change impacts, such as the National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) for Samoa
  - World Heritage managers can contribute significantly in responding to climate change problems through implementing effective protection and management programs. These should give attention to identifying natural and cultural values, recognising threats, implementing protection and management measures and monitoring changes.

### **Goal and Main Actions**

In the face of these challenges, our goals are to strengthen the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Pacific Island region, and increase local, regional and global awareness, recognition and support for the conservation of the unique cultural and natural heritage of the Pacific in a way that takes into account the traditions, aspirations, opportunities and challenges of its people.

With a view to attaining this goal, we have identified the following Main Actions, with reference to the “Strategic Objectives” (the Five “C”s) adopted by the World Heritage Committee<sup>3</sup>:

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<sup>3</sup> See reference to the five Strategic Objectives in the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (version January 2008), paragraphs 25 and 26, accessible online from: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines/>

(CR.: Credibility, CO: Conservation, CB: Capacity-building, CT: Communication, CY: Community)

| <b>Main Actions</b>   | <b>CR</b> | <b>CO</b> | <b>CB</b> | <b>CT</b> | <b>CY</b> |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Encouraging dialogue between communities, agencies and organisations within and outside the Pacific region to identify, protect and promote the region's outstanding cultural and natural heritage to the global community   |           |           |           | X         | X         |
| 2. Empowering local communities through awareness-raising of the benefits of preserving their cultural and natural heritage, and encouraging community participation (particularly by youth and women) in all stages of the World Heritage process.   |           |           | X         | X         | X         |
| 3. Increasing successful nominations for inscription on the World Heritage list, by increasing in-country capacity to identify suitable potential sites and prepare nomination dossiers that fully meet the requirements of the World Heritage Convention.  | X         |           |           |           |           |
| 4. Increasing in-country capacity to develop appropriate management plans and arrangements to ensure effective protection and conservation of Pacific heritage sites, in a way that takes into account and recognises traditional knowledge, practices and land and sea tenures   |           | X         | X         |           | X         |
| 5. Assisting in the development of in-country heritage expertise in the Pacific by supporting heritage education and training, and providing related technical assistance where requested, including through the development of a network of partner institutions within the region capable of providing training and educational services in the area of heritage conservation in a coordinated and integrated way |           | X         | X         | X         |           |
| 6. Building partnerships between communities, heritage agencies, regional organisations, educational institutions and non-government organisations in the region, including the promotion of bilateral cooperation and twinning programs between World Heritage sites and countries of the Pacific and beyond.  |           |           | X         | X         | X         |
| 7. Assisting communities to develop and implement sustainable heritage-related enterprises  |           |           |           |           | X         |
| 8. Sharing information, including regional heritage data bases, through regional strategies and communication networks that link island communities   |           | X         |           | X         | X         |
| 9. Supporting the development and implementation of effective national policies and legislation for cultural and natural heritage conservation by Governments in the region, including by integrating heritage within the larger development agenda and raise the profile of heritage within political circles  |           | X         | X         | X         |           |
| 10. Establishing sustainable financing arrangements to support the effective implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Pacific, taking into account and building on other available funding sources and in-kind contributions  | X         | X         | X         | X         | X         |
| 11. Sustaining the ongoing consultative process by bringing together the representatives of the Pacific Islands States and Territories on a regular basis.  |           |           |           | X         | X         |