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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Thirty- third session

Seville, Spain
22 to 30 June 2009

Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda: Reports of the World Heritage Centre

5A: Report of the World Heritage Centre on its activities and the implementation of the World Heritage Committee's Decisions

SUMMARY

This document contains a non-exhaustive overview of the results of activities undertaken by the World Heritage Centre and the results achieved in implementing the Decisions and Strategic Objectives of the World Heritage Committee since its 32nd session (Quebec City, Canada, 2008), and in particular on results of activities not otherwise covered in the working and information documents prepared for this session. Further details about all World Heritage Centre activities are available from the Secretariat.

Draft Decision: 33 COM 5A, see Point IV.

See also Annexes:

- I: Thematic Action Plan on Prehistory and World Heritage
- II: Progress in the implementation of the WH Earthen Architecture Programme (2007-2017),
- III: The World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Initiative

See also INF Docs:

WHC-09/33.COM/INF.5A.1

Report from the Advisory Bodies on their 2008 activities

WHC-09/33.COM/INF.5A.2

Report from the Nordic World Heritage Foundation on its 2008 activities

WHC-09/33.COM/INF.5A.3

Mapping of the workload of the World Heritage Centre for 2008

I. Results-based Report of the activities undertaken by the World Heritage Centre

1. Following Decision **32 COM 5** (Quebec City, 2008), the Report of the Secretariat on its activities undertaken in the previous year in the regions, under thematic programmes and initiatives and in the field of communication, education and partnerships is results-based and put in a table format for easy reference. The overview presented therein is non-exhaustive, as a number of activities, the results of which are to be expected in the long term rather than immediately, are not included.
2. The 32nd ordinary session of the World Heritage Committee was organized in Quebec City, Canada, from 2 to 10 July 2008. An information meeting for the preparation of the 33rd session is to be held on 18 May 2009 at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris.
3. The Summary Records of the 32nd ordinary session will be distributed for review by Committee members prior to the 33rd session.
4. Considering the cost- and time-consuming exercise of the preparation of the Summary Records, the Committee is reminded of the cost-benefit analysis undertaken in 2007 and presented to the 31st session of the Committee (**WHC-07/31COM/21A**) on the production of the written Summary Record and an audio verbatim recording.
5. The analysis showed that a switch to an audio verbatim recording would result in financial savings in terms of paper consumption, printing, translation and postage. Efficiency would also improve since the current written record typically takes several months to finalize, whereas the audio recording could be issued at the same time as the Decisions report, i.e. within one month of the closure of the session (Rule 46 of the *Rules of Procedure*). The audio recording would be made available as an audio CD/DVD in English and French (and any other languages for which interpretation was provided at the session, as the interpreters are recorded), indexed, and would be easy to search and use. It would also be accompanied by a short written summary of no more than 50 pages, in order that users without easy access to computers would not be disadvantaged by a switch to audio recordings. This short summary would enable the reader to track the principal points of debate leading to the Committee's Decisions.
6. Another benefit, although not financially quantifiable, is that an audio verbatim recording provides a perfectly accurate record of the debates. This should be of high value to users and in particular to States Parties.
7. For the current session, in addition to the usual Summary Records, an audio recording (as an audio CD) could be made available. A draft decision to this effect is proposed at the end of this document.

A. Results of the Implementation of the *Convention*

8. Following ratification by Cook Islands on 16 January 2009, the total number of States Parties to the *Convention* has increased to 186.
9. Twenty-seven new properties (19 cultural with 1 transboundary and 8 natural) were inscribed on the World Heritage List at the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee, including four from non-represented countries, four from under-represented regions and 11 for under-represented categories. UNESCO's World Heritage List now numbers a total of 878 properties (679 cultural, 174 natural and 25 mixed properties) located in 145 States Parties.
10. Extensions added onto properties already inscribed on the World Heritage List are the following: Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastra (Albania), Mountain Railways of India

(India), Cave of Altamira and Paleolithic Cave Art of Northern Spain (Spain) and Frontiers of the Roman Empire (United Kingdom, Germany).

11. Four States Parties with no properties on the World Heritage List had their first property inscribed at the 32nd session: Papua New Guinea, San Marino, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Vanuatu.
12. A total of 158 State of Conservation Reports, including 30 of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger, were examined by the 32nd session of the Committee.
13. The number of properties currently inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger is 30 (17 cultural and 13 natural).
14. The Committee will examine 37 nominations for inscription on the World Heritage List during this session: 29 cultural properties, 5 natural and three mixed properties including four transnational sites, and seven extensions to properties already listed.
15. Since the 32nd session of the Committee, 32 States Parties have submitted new Tentative Lists or modified existing Lists. The number of new properties added to the Tentative Lists is 88.
16. The new international assistance format has been put on line. Following last year's management audit, the new structure of the World Heritage Centre has been put in place.
17. The "reinforced monitoring mechanism" requested by the World Heritage Committee on three World Heritage sites in danger was implemented in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Old City Jerusalem and its Walls, Dresden Elbe Valley (Germany), Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu (Peru), Timbuktu (Mali), Bordeaux, Port of the Moon (France), Samarkand – Crossroads of Cultures (Uzbekistan).
18. National capacities for the management and conservation of properties have been strengthened through various conservation and training activities in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean, also involving women.
19. Activities on sustainable tourism have also been pursued (MDG n°1), as well as those related to natural heritage conservation (MDG n°7). The African World Heritage Fund held an advocacy meeting in Abuja.
20. The World Heritage Centre has concluded 5 partnership agreements with the private sector, while another 6 are under discussion.
21. High visibility and large impact projects have also been actively pursued, such as the re-installation of the Aksum Obelisk in Ethiopia thanks to the generous contribution of Italy.
22. Cooperation with the six biodiversity related Conventions continued through the mechanism of the Biodiversity Liaison Group, a meeting of which was attended by the World Heritage Centre in April 2009. The Centre is also working with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Natural Sciences Sector of UNESCO.
23. The World Heritage Centre participated at the third ordinary session of the Intergovernmental Committee of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Heritage (3-7 November 2008) in Istanbul, Turkey and held two meetings with the Secretariat of the Convention for the Protection of Underwater Heritage, 2001, on the issue of marine sites.

II. A. Roles of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

24. Following the Management Audit of the World Heritage Centre in 2007, the World Heritage Committee had requested the Director of the World Heritage Centre (**Decision 31 COM 19, paragraph 12.d**) *inter alia* to delineate the respective roles of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. On the basis of this decision, a result-based action plan for implementing the recommendations of the Management Audit was prepared and presented to the 16th General Assembly of States Parties (**Resolution 16 GA 5**) and to the 32nd session of the Committee (**Decision 32 Com 17**).
25. The issue of the respective roles of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies was discussed at the last coordination meeting between the Centre and the Advisory Bodies held in January 2009, and it was agreed that a document would be drafted to which both would contribute.
26. Chapter I.F (paragraphs 27 to 29) of the *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention* concerns the World Heritage Centre and outlines its main tasks, while Chapter I.G (paragraphs 30 to 37) concerns the three Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee and their roles. These tasks and roles are as follows:

28. Secretariat's main tasks

- a) the organization of the meetings of the General Assembly and the Committee;
- b) the implementation of decisions of the World Heritage Committee and resolutions of the General Assembly and reporting to them on their execution;
- c) the receipt, registration, checking the completeness, archiving and transmission to the relevant Advisory Bodies of nominations to the World Heritage List;
- d) the co-ordination of studies and activities as part of the Global Strategy for a Representative, Balanced and Credible World Heritage List;
- e) the organization of Periodic Reporting and coordination of Reactive Monitoring;
- f) the co-ordination of International Assistance;
- g) the mobilization of extra-budgetary resources for the conservation and management of World Heritage properties;
- h) the assistance to States Parties in the implementation of the Committee's programmes and projects; and
- i) the promotion of World Heritage and the *Convention* through the dissemination of information to States Parties, the Advisory Bodies and the general public.

29. These activities follow the decisions and Strategic Objectives of the Committee and the resolutions of the General Assembly of the States Parties and are conducted in close co-operation with the Advisory Bodies.

31. Roles of the Advisory Bodies

- a) advise on the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* in the field of their expertise;
- b) assist the Secretariat, in the preparation of the Committee's documentation, the agenda of its meetings and the implementation of the Committee's decisions;
- c) assist with the development and implementation of the Global Strategy for a Representative, Balanced and Credible World Heritage List, the Global Training Strategy, Periodic Reporting, and the strengthening of the effective use of the World Heritage Fund;

- d) monitor the state of conservation of World Heritage properties and review requests for International Assistance;
 - e) in the case of ICOMOS and IUCN evaluate properties nominated for inscription on the World Heritage List and present evaluation reports to the Committee; and
 - f) attend meetings of the World Heritage Committee and the Bureau in an advisory capacity.
27. In 1999, a report from the Director-General of UNESCO concerning the roles and functions of the World Heritage Centre was presented to the 23rd session of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee, as Annex II of Document **WHC-99/CONF.204/8** and to the 23rd session of the World Heritage Committee in Document **WHC-99/CONF.209/INF.15**. These Documents can be accessed at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/23COM/documents/>. In these documents, the tasks and functions of the World Heritage Centre are described in detail under each of the following main categories, and are required to be implemented in cooperation with the Advisory Bodies and the UNESCO sectors and field units:
- a. Ways and means to ensure a representative World Heritage List
 - b. Technical implementation of the Convention – strengthening national capacities necessary for the protection of World Heritage properties
 - c. Monitoring and reporting on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties
 - d. Documentation, information and awareness-building
 - e. Special Project “Young People’s Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion”
28. From the above-mentioned provisions in the *Operational Guidelines* and the report of the Director-General of UNESCO it results that the respective roles of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies are distinct and clear. However, the World Heritage Centre is required to cooperate with the Advisory Bodies in implementing the activities assigned to it, which makes these activities a shared responsibility. The Management Audit of the World Heritage Centre underlined (in **Recommendation 4.1**) the need to clarify the division of roles and responsibilities in three specific areas: (i) Organization of joint missions; (ii) Drafting of state of conservation reports; and (iii) Management of studies and analysis requested by the Committee or extra-budgetary partners.
29. The World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies have discussed these three areas and the following clarifications on the division of roles and responsibilities are proposed:
- (i). Organization of reactive monitoring missions: The decision on joint missions involving the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies is taken by the World Heritage Committee. Thereafter, the World Heritage Centre ensures communication with the State Party concerned to obtain the invitation and finalise the timing for the mission. It also drafts the terms of reference for the mission jointly with the Advisory Bodies, coordinates the logistical arrangements and prepares background documents as required. During the joint mission, the representative of the World Heritage Centre or UNESCO facilitates the liaison with the State Party and provides professional input into the assessment of the state of conservation while the Advisory Bodies Representative is expected to provide specialized expertise in the field of conservation, protection and management. Following completion of the fact finding mission, the representatives of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies prepare jointly a draft report. The draft mission reports are then peer reviewed within the institutions to obtain an institutional opinion. The revised documents are finalised

via an internal review of both the relevant Advisory Body(ies) and the World Heritage Centre to reach a common position within the report. Where exceptionally necessary different institutional views of World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies may be reflected within the report.

- (ii). Drafting of state of conservation reports: At the time of establishing the list of state of conservation reports to be presented to a particular session of the World Heritage Committee, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies also reach agreement on who would be responsible for drafting which report. The World Heritage Centre carries out pre-filling of state of conservation reports to reflect the key decisions and handles all interaction with the States Parties regarding the submission of reports requested by the World Heritage Committee. The preparation of first drafts should be carried out by the Advisory Bodies while the World Heritage Centre should revise them to integrate some elements and ensure consistency in the drafting. However, where the World Heritage Centre/UNESCO has a strong technical engagement with a particular site, or has recently been on mission (for example the World Heritage sites in the Democratic Republic of Congo where the Centre has a long-standing involvement), it often takes the lead on drafting (a third of all the reports were drafted by WHC in 2009). The drafts of the reports are then shared for discussion and agreement to reflect a joint position.

As per the Article 14.2 of the *Convention* stating that the “The Director General, utilizing to the fullest extend possible the services of the (...Advisory Bodies....) shall prepare the Committee’s documentation (...),” the World Heritage Centre carries out final consistency checks, in particular after translation, and are also responsible for tracking progress throughout the process. In general, the process is strongly collegiate, despite the exceptional (and at present excessive) workload that the process entails. There is an ongoing dialogue between the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre regarding means to further enhance the process. One week drafting workshop is organized to make the final review of the state of conservation reports for cultural properties by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. It enables a good exchange of views and facilitates the reaching of consensus in most cases.

As noted by the Advisory Bodies in their submissions to the Future of the *World Heritage Convention*, and many State Party submissions, provision of adequate funding for monitoring activities is the most significant and immediate strategic issue for the Convention if it wishes to be a more effective instrument for conservation of inscribed World Heritage properties.

- (iii). Management of studies and analysis:

According to paragraph 147 of the *Operational Guidelines*, thematic studies are the sole responsibility of the Advisory Bodies. As such studies are designed to contribute to the nomination of World Heritage properties, this activity is closely aligned to the role of the Advisory Bodies (and in particular IUCN and ICOMOS). In practice, there are strong and integrated working arrangements between the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies. Whilst the coordination of some studies by the World Heritage Centre has been taken on through expedience and sharing of workloads, improved mechanisms could ensure that lead roles and funding are provided to the Advisory Bodies to undertake the work, according to paragraph 147 of the *Operational Guidelines*.

The World Heritage Centre takes the lead on thematic World Heritage programmes and initiatives requested by the Committee and sometimes supported by extra-budgetary partners. The Centre always cooperates closely with the Advisory Bodies in all such activities and invariably, the decisions of the World Heritage Committee call for such joint action. Some recent examples include the workshops on buffer

zones, science and technology, pre-history, future of the Convention, etc. Whilst the list of tasks assigned to the Centre in the *Operational Guidelines* does include responsibility for coordinating such studies and analysis, it is important that this role is taken on in relation to Committee decisions, and delivered in an integrated way with the Advisory Bodies.

The Advisory Bodies could report on their activities on a biennium basis and following the result-based framework report adopted for the World Heritage Centre.

An independent external Audit funded by the World Heritage Fund could be undertaken for the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre on periodic basis (once every five years for example) to follow up on these issues.

II. B. Mapping of the Workload of the World Heritage Centre during 2008

Background:

30. Following decision¹ of the World Heritage Committee in 2006, the World Heritage Centre commissioned an external consulting firm (Deloitte) to review the efficiency and effectiveness of management practices at the Centre and examine the degree to which programmes and budgets were designed to meet the Committee's needs. The management audit concluded that the workload of the WHC had been increasing and that there was therefore a growing imbalance between the Centre's resources and its workload. It also concluded that the WHC was unable to fulfill all the major tasks assigned to it due, in part, to its limited human resources.
31. Taking on a quality assurance role (as per the Terms of Reference of the audit), UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service (IOS) presented its observations on the audit to the 31st session of the Committee in 2007. IOS observed that, although the report identified nine main work processes assigned to the WHC secretariat, it did not analyze how much time or effort was spent on each, nor did it take into account the role of field and temporary staff. It was therefore not possible to conclude that there was a growing imbalance between the resources of the Centre and its workload.
32. The Committee noted the observations made by IOS and stated that "more detailed information [was] needed regarding the mapping of the Centre's workload, its regional distribution and the consequences of the high proportion of personnel in temporary contracts". In responding to this decision, the WHC asked IOS in October 2008 to undertake a complete mapping of the workload of the Centre with the following objectives:
 - to identify the main work processes and tasks of the WHC;
 - to analyze how much time is spent on each of the main WHC processes by staff at Headquarters and in the Field Offices; and,
 - to identify the role of consultants and temporary staff in the WHC's workload.

Methodology:

33. Between October 2008 and March 2009, IOS undertook a comprehensive survey of all permanent and temporary staff and consultants working at the WHC. The study also covered staff working in the field on WHC matters. Participants were asked to identify what processes and tasks their jobs entailed for 2008 and to indicate the amount of time spent on each. In 2008 the WHC was staffed by 79 people (58

¹ Decisions 30 COM 6 and 30 COM 12

Professional staff and 21 General Service staff)². The participation rate in the workload mapping for HQ was 71%. Furthermore, the participation rate of personnel in the field who contribute to WH matters was 48%.

34. *This study identified the WHC's work processes and analyzed how much time was spent on each in 2008. It provides data and analysis on staff workloads, but does not draw conclusions on the adequacy of the Centre's human resources nor on the efficiency and effectiveness of its work practices.*

35. Eleven work processes were identified through the consultation process with staff:

- A. Statutory Process
- B. Nomination Process
- C. Conservation of World Heritage Properties
- D. World Heritage International Assistance
- E. Partnerships / Mobilization of Resources
- F. Communication / Promotion / Publications / Providing Training
- G. UNESCO Generated Work
- H. Extra-Budgetary Projects
- I. Regular Programme
- J. Advice to States Parties and for Non-UNESCO Projects
- K. Human Resources Management

Findings:

36. The mapping exercise found that temporary staff and consultants working for the WHC represent a high proportion of the Centre's human resources: 57% of Professional staff and 29% of General Service staff. The survey also found that the workloads of permanent and temporary staff differ.

37. WHC staff (including permanent staff, staff on temporary contracts, supernumeraries, and consultants)³ spent about 75% of their time on five main processes. For permanent staff, in order of importance these are conservation of WH properties (21%), the statutory process (15%), extra-budgetary projects (15%), communication / promotion / publications / training (10%) and WH international assistance (9%). For temporary staff, in order of importance these are extra-budgetary projects (25%), conservation of WH properties (17%), the nomination process (13%), communication / promotion / publications / training (10%) and the statutory process (7%).

38. The workloads of Professional and General Service staff at HQ also differed. P staff spent a much higher proportion of their time (21% to 9%) on the conservation of WH properties and on the nomination process (12% to 4%). G staff, however, spent a higher proportion of their time on WH international assistance (12% to 5%), on the statutory process (14% to 10%), on the Regular Programme (8% to 3%) and on UNESCO-generated work (7% to 4%).

39. Each staff member at HQ worked on average 39 days of overtime in 2008: 40 days for P staff and 33 for G staff. The Africa Unit, the Administrative Office and the Policy and Statutory Implementation Unit reported the highest overtime figures among the units at up to 84 days.

40. With respect to the field, the mapping found that at least 39 staff members from 25 Field Offices (as well as three consultants based in the field) spent on average about half of their time on WHC matters. Half of these staff work in the Asia-Pacific region.

² World Heritage Centre Staff in 2008, not including 3 vacant Professional posts under recruitment.

³ For the purpose of this study, throughout this report the term **staff** refers to all permanent and temporary staff, and individuals and consultants on temporary contracts.

Several differences were observed in the workloads of FO staff as compared to those at HQ. Staff in the field spent a higher proportion of their time on extrabudgetary projects (28% to 22%) and on advice to State Parties for non-UNESCO projects (6% to 1%). Staff at HQ spent a higher proportion of their time on the conservation of WH properties (18% to 8%), on the statutory process (11% to 6%) and on WH international assistance (7% to 4%).

The detailed report of this study is available in Document: WHC-09/33.COM/INF.5A.3.

Conclusions:

41. The following general conclusions can be drawn from this exercise:

- (i). The report of the Management Audit (2007) had concluded that the workload of the WHC had been increasing, and the present study also points to that finding by revealing that each staff member worked on average 39 days of overtime in 2008, and that a high proportion of them were on temporary contracts.
- (ii). It is worthy of note that the workload of WHC is also being shared by staff in the UNESCO field offices, both belonging to the Culture Sector and the Natural Sciences Sector.
- (iii). Although as pointed out by the IOS, no conclusion can be drawn from this study on the adequacy of WHC's human resources or on their effectiveness, it can be seen from the work processes that the staff is discharging core functions of the Secretariat.

III. Results-based report on the activities undertaken by the World Heritage Centre in pursuit of the 5 Cs
(covers period from April 2008 to May 2009)

Key to reading the Table:

The activities and their results are presented according to the following breakdown: 1) global relevance, 2) regional relevance, 3) thematic programmes, 4) thematic initiative and 5) communication, education and partnerships. Under the 5 Cs columns, the primary focus of the activity is indicated with a 1, and the secondary focus(es) with a 2.

RESULTS GLOBAL	Serial number	ACTIVITIES	Credibility	Conservation	Capacity building	Communication	Communities
GLOBAL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A more representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List ensured</i> • <i>National capacities for the conservation and management of heritage properties strengthened</i> • <i>Promotion of World Heritage increased</i> • <i>Awareness and involvement of local communities reinforced</i> 	1	<p>According to Decision 32.COM/10A, Global Strategy for a Representative, Balanced and Credible World Heritage List at the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee in Quebec, July 2008 :</p> <p>Meeting on the Futures of the WH Convention (UNESCO HQ, 25-27 Feb. 09) organized (see WHC-09/33.COM/14A).</p>	1				
	2	<p>Programme on Prehistory launched following the initiative of the Chairperson of the 33rd session of the Committee, financed by the Spanish Funds-in-Trust. A draft Action Plan is being prepared resulting from the following interdisciplinary meetings organized by WHC (see also Annex to this document):</p> <p>1. Meeting on Prehistory and the WH Convention: Towards an Action Plan and the related thematic studies (UNESCO HQ, 3-4 Nov. 08). A preparatory meeting to undertake groundwork discussions and reflection in guiding future developments of the programme, involving the participation of 18 international experts from 13 States Parties and Advisory Bodies' representatives. Three core thematic areas for the future development of the Programme established: Human Evolution, Rock Art and Prehistoric Sites.</p> <p>2. Meeting on Human Evolution and the World Heritage Convention (Burgos, Spain, 21-25 Mar. 09). 19 participants from 12 States Parties discussed issues and strategies for identifying and prioritizing this thematic area within the context of the WH Convention.</p> <p>3. Meeting on Rock Art and the WH Convention (Drakensberg Park, South Africa, 3-8 Apr. 09) with 44 participants from 28 States Parties, including site managers of rock-art sites, WH conservation specialists, policy-makers and several members of the WH Committee and the Advisory Bodies.</p> <p>4. Meeting on Prehistoric Sites (Manama, Bahrain, 9-13 May 09). 20 participants from 15 States Parties and 5 international experts will discuss priorities in this thematic area and finalize the Draft Action Plan.</p>	1	1			1

RESULTS GLOBAL	Serial number	ACTIVITIES	Credibility	Conservation	Capacity building	Communication	Communities
	3	Letter of Agreement signed at UNESCO HQ (Apr. 09) between UNESCO and the French Institut National de Recherches Archéologiques Préventives (INRAP) to provide technical expertise in the context of archaeological site conservation. It aims to oversee effective and preventative conservation measures at WH sites through preventive archaeology programmes and reinforcing capacities.		1	2		
	4	International Expert Workshop on Natural Serial Transnational properties organized by the German Agency for Nature Conservation (Vilm, Germany, Nov. 08) with participation of WHC and the Advisory Bodies (see WHC-09/33.COM/10A).	2	1			
	5	N° 25 of WH Paper Series <i>World Heritage and Buffer Zones</i> (proceedings of Davos meeting) published and disseminated (Apr. 09) in collaboration with Swiss Federal Office of Culture.			1	2	
	6	Within Forum UNESCO Universities and Heritage: 19 participants from Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Canada, Chad, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Czech Republic, France, Madagascar, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Togo trained at 2nd Intensive training workshop for French-speaking site managers (ENSAM Cluny, France, Mar. 09).			2	1	
	7	12th International Seminar of Forum UNESCO - University and Heritage in Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (Apr. 09) on "Historic Urban Landscapes: A New Concept? A New Category of World Heritage Properties?" organized. 380 abstracts from 76 countries submitted for evaluation of the Scientific Committee. 280 participants from 26 countries, incl. 6 UNESCO Chair Holders, attended the Seminar, Hanoi Declaration on Historic Urban Landscapes adopted.			2	1	

RESULTS BY REGION	Serial number	ACTIVITIES	Credibility	Conservation	Capacity building	Communication	Communities
<p>AFRICA</p> <p>See also WHC-09/33.COM/6A and WHC-09/33.COM/11C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A more representative, credible and balanced World Heritage List ensured</i> • <i>National capacities for conservation and management of heritage properties strengthened, including for World Heritage in Danger, post-conflict and post-disaster countries, in cooperation with the AWHF</i> • <i>World Heritage information, education and knowledge management tools developed, and the network of</i> 	1	<p>Central African World Heritage Forest Initiative carried out (funded by UNF, FFEM and EU): conservation activities in three ecological complexes in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo and Gabon. The French-funded component of the Central African WH Forest Initiative continued to assist national authorities to develop community conservation strategy on management systems for wildlife resources.</p> <p>120 site managers and ONG representatives trained at two capacity building workshops for natural heritage (Brazzaville, Congo, Feb. 09 and Yaoundé, Mar. 09).</p> <p>Publication on Natural World Heritage Properties in Central Africa printed and disseminated (Dec. 08).</p>		1			2
				2	1		
	2	<p>DRC project carried out (funded by Belgium, Italy and UNF): continuation of the implementation of the Emergency Action Plans in Virunga NP, Kahuzi-Biega NP and Okapi Wildlife Reserve.</p> <p>Development of Community Conservation Training Modules for ICCN senior managers and sites' managers; ICCN and local communities' representatives capacities in community conservation strengthened (cf. establishment of collaborative mechanisms and structures) to ensure the engagement of all stakeholders in the conservation policy; 2-week training in community conservation for the 5 WHS' site managers, their assistants and 2 guards from each site organized (Feb. 09).</p>		1			
	3	<p>Ongoing project on Niger/Loire governance and culture: water management and cultural resources: linking heritage and environment, sustainable development and local authorities' capacity building (EU funded project with support from France-UNESCO). Preparation of a study on Rivers Heritage program.</p>		1	2		2
	4	<p>Lalibela, Ethiopia (funded by Norway): conservation studies for the churches of Lalibela undertaken. Stakeholders' committee for the conservation and management of Lalibela established and regular information meetings held involving the local communities.</p> <p>5 heritage professionals trained in site management in the framework of the Lalibela conservation project. 35 local workers trained in traditional restoration techniques; pilot studies and works on the Gabriel Rufael Church undertaken.</p>		1			2
				2	1		
	5	<p>Aksum, Ethiopia (funded by Italy): reinstallation and restoration of Aksum Obelisk, following its return from Italy (Jul. 07-Dec. 09). High technical challenge; successful and smooth implementation completed.</p> <p>Site Management Training Workshop: 38 heritage professionals trained (Aksum, May 08). Stone restoration training workshop and on-the-job training in Aksum and in Pisa, Italy (Oct.-Nov. 08) in cooperation with the Italian Institute of Restoration. Tourism guides training workshop/ 20 guides trained (Aksum, May 09).</p>	1	2			
				2	1		

RESULTS BY REGION	Serial number	ACTIVITIES	Credibility	Conservation	Capacity building	Communication	Communities
<p><i>partners expanded</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Awareness and involvement of local communities reinforced</i> 		Support provided to the inauguration ceremony of the Aksum Obelisk Reinstallation (04 Sep. 08): Press conference, film, banners, exhibition at the Aksum Site Museum and at the Addis Ababa UN Compound. Special focus of the WH Review, No. 51 (October 08) published, along with an extract from the Review on Aksum. Exhibition on the process of the reinstallation works organized at UNESCO Headquarters from 23 April to 15 May 2009 (images and video).				1	
	6	Rehabilitation project of San Sebastian Fortress, Mozambique Island: initial project works funded by Japan, UCCLA and Portugal concluded in Dec. 08; additional funding from Netherlands and Flanders FiT obtained to allow continuation of works. Successful completion of important part of project phase I (consolidation and stabilization of buildings, water proofing, paving); Completion of capacity building activities/ on-the-job training in traditional construction techniques, architectural assessment and supervision of works.		1	2		2
		Madagascar project (funded by UNF and Norway): national information workshop on the WH Convention for the preparation of a nomination file for the dry forests (Tuléar, Madagascar, Sep. 08); preparation of a an Integrated management plan for the Rainforests of the Atsinanana and update on the WH Convention in Madagascar; delimitation works on potential sites proposed for extension, in close relation with local communities in Madagascar.	2	1			
	7	Web site www.unescopm.mg to provide information on WH activities undertaken in Madagascar finalized (Jul. 08). Articles on WH activities undertaken in Madagascar published in specialized reviews (WWF – Vintsy) (Dec. 08). Launching of an information campaign on the WH convention and WH in Madagascar in collaboration with Air Madagascar (Aug. 08).				1	
		Implementation of conservation and integrated development activities with local communities at potential WH sites with a view to reduce poverty as well as environmental pressure in line with the MDGs. Implementation of operational local collaboration with other UN agencies and programmes (UNICEF, PAM, PNUD) and local communities.		2			1
	8	WHC and World Monuments Fund collaborate on studies and works for the conservation of the Lalibela Rock Hewn Churches, Ethiopia. Scientific research and expertise shared, studies and works planned jointly. Capacity-building and community participation are given a major role in this partnership. A Memorandum of understanding is underway.		2	1		1
	9	40 professionals from 18 States Parties trained on the preparation of Draft Statement of OUV in Tanzania, funded by Switzerland and AWHF (Mar. 09).	2		1		

RESULTS BY REGION	Serial number	ACTIVITIES	Credibility	Conservation	Capacity building	Communication	Communities
	10	Two-week workshop on WH nominations preparation (Lesotho, Nov. 08), 20 professionals from 9 countries trained (with the support of the WH Fund and AWHF).	2		1		
ARAB REGION See also WHC-09/33.COM/11A • <i>A more representative, credible and balanced World Heritage List ensured</i> • <i>National capacities for conservation and management of heritage properties strengthened</i> • <i>World Heritage information, education and knowledge management tools developed, and the network of partners expanded</i> • <i>Awareness and involvement of local communities reinforced</i>	1	Assistance provided to Sudan in the nomination process for the Island of Meroe, with the support of Spain and the AWHF, and for the Ancient villages in Northern Syria, with France-UNESCO support (Feb. 09).	1	2			
	2	Assistance to Moroccan authorities provided in the identification of potential oasis sites in Morocco and revision of their cultural tourism potential (Mar. 09).	1	2			
	3	Management Plan of the Ksar Ait Ben-Haddou, Morocco and its translation into Arabic finalized and adopted (Nov. 08).		1			
	4	Ongoing preparation of the archaeological survey and diagnosis before the construction of the subway of Algiers, in the low Kasbah, Algeria.		1			
	5	Second phase of the project "Preservation of the World Cultural Heritage Royal Tomb of Amenophis III, Valley of Kings", Egypt, implemented (UNESCO Cairo office), funded by Japan.		1			
	6	3-year restoration project of the Church of St. John Prodromos in Jerusalem, funded by Leventis Foundation launched beginning 2009 (see WHC-09/33.COM/7A).		1			
	7	Conservation and Management Plan for Historic Cairo: a 2-year action plan under preparation.		1			
	8	Architectural and urban survey of the Historic Town of Zabid, Yemen (in Danger site) undertaken in cooperation with the German Technical Cooperation Agency (Feb.-Oct. 09).		1			
	9	Second cycle of Periodic reporting in the Arab States launched: Regional meeting in Bahrein, Dec. 08 and 3 sub-regional workshops in Amman, Doha and Meknes (Apr. and Jun. 09), including training in drafting of retrospective Statements of OUV.		1	2		
	10	"Development of an Architectural Heritage Preservation Institute" in Jerusalem, EU funded project in partnership with the Welfare Association (ongoing project 2008-2011).		2	1		
	11	Support provided to project developed by Bahrain for the establishment of a World Heritage Regional Training Centre as a UNESCO Category II Centre (see WHC-09/33.COM/10B).			1	2	
	12	Publication documenting the studies undertaken from 2003 to 2006 in collaboration with the General Organization for the Preservation of the Historic Cities of Yemen (GOPHCY) on "The inventory of the historic city of Sana'a -A tool for urban conservation" to establish appropriate conservation measures. Published in 2008 with the support of Italy.		2	2	1	

RESULTS BY REGION	Serial number	ACTIVITIES	Credibility	Conservation	Capacity building	Communication	Communities
	13	Involvement of local communities in sites' management reinforced in Ksar Ait Ben-Haddou (Morocco) and Sudan.		2			1
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC See also WHC-09/33.COM/6B and WHC-09/33.COM/11B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A more representative, credible and balanced World Heritage List ensured</i> • <i>National capacities for conservation and management of heritage properties strengthened, including for World Heritage in Danger</i> • <i>Coordination of international efforts to safeguard the cultural heritage of Afghanistan ensured</i> 	1	Sub-regional workshops on the Silk Roads serial WH nomination organized (Xi'an, China, Jun. 08 and Almaty, Kazakhstan, May 2009): preparation and harmonization of the nomination dossier (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and China) and development of an agreed SOUV, comparative studies and coordination of management mechanisms between the countries (funded by Norway).	1		2		
	2	Joint UNESCO-IICAS (International Institute for Central Asian Studies) scientific methodology workshop held (Samarkand, Uzbekistan, Mar. 09) for the proposed Central Asian Rock Art serial WH nomination; experts, UNESCO field office staff and IICAS members involved, Concept paper for the nomination developed.	1		2		
	3	A cost-benefit analysis on the nomination process for Chief Roi Mata's Domain, Vanuatu (inscribed in 2008) undertaken.	1	2	2		2
	4	Sub-Regional WH Consultative Workshop for the Promotion of Transboundary Co-operation in Asia organized, funded by the Northeast Asia History Research Foundation from the Republic of Korea (Ulan Bator, Mongolia, Sep. 08): 'Altai Group' established with the mandate to further discussions on transboundary co-operation between China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and Russian Federation.	1	2			
	5	Pacific Islands WH workshop organized by the Australian Department of Environment and Heritage in close cooperation with WHC and New Zealand (Cairns, Australia, Oct. 08): participants' capacity in site management improved; sub-regional exchange of experiences in the implementation of the Pacific 2009 programme enhanced, succession programme for 2010-2015 discussed.		2	1		2
		Preparation for a feasibility study on possible future sustainable funding mechanisms for WH in the Pacific facilitated by WHC at the workshop. Draft terms of reference and objectives for the study developed.		1			
	6	WHC, ICOMOS and ICCROM supported China's State Administration of Cultural Heritage in organizing an International Seminar on the Conservation of Painted Surfaces on Wooden Structures in East Asia in Beijing (Oct.–Nov. 08); 50 participants from 20 countries trained.		1	2		
7	Project for safeguarding one of the priority properties on Tajikistan's TL, the Buddhist Monastery of Ajina Tapa, and supporting on-site research and preservation, completed in 2008 with support of Japan.		1	2			

RESULTS BY REGION	Serial number	ACTIVITIES	Credibility	Conservation	Capacity building	Communication	Communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Awareness and involvement of local communities reinforced</i> • <i>World Heritage information, education and knowledge management tools developed, and the network of partners expanded</i> 	8	Technical cooperation project funded by Netherlands implemented in 2008 by WHC and UNESCO Jakarta Office to assist Indonesian national and local authorities in improving the state of conservation of Borobudur.		1	2		
	9	In the framework of a project to ensure the long term stability of the Giant Buddha niches at Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan), scientific analysis of the Buddha surface fragments conducted (Sep. 08 – Jan.09), scientific tests for consolidation of the surfaces of the back wall in the Small Buddha niche undertaken, contributing to the achievement of the desired state of conservation of the property.		1	2		
		UNESCO/ICOMOS 7th Expert Working Group on the Preservation of Bamiyan (Munich, Germany, Jun. 08) involved Afghan authorities and national and international experts: coordination and harmonization of on-site activities improved, main conservation issues reviewed and conservation recommendations formulated.		1			
	10	Third phase of the Project for the conservation of Koguryo Tombs and mural paintings (DPR Korea) begun in 2008 with the support of UNESCO and the Republic of Korea FiT; 3 months of conservation work on the mural paintings undertaken; national expertise, capacity and skills enhanced.		1	2		
	11	Workshop for the preparation of an Integrated Management Plan for Lumbini organized (Lumbini, Nepal, Sep. 08): 60 participants from Nepali ministries, institutions and various stakeholder groups including Lumbini Buddhist institutions. WHC and UNESCO Kathmandu Office raised USD50,000 from the NGO Oriental Cultural Heritage Preservation Alliance, in addition to the USD30,000 provided by the WH Fund.		1	2		
	12	Study tour of four site managers from the Rice Terraces of the Philippines organized by WHC with support from Italy to Cinque Terre, Italy (May 09) to facilitate sharing of conservation and management techniques between the two sites in the framework of a possible twinning arrangement.		1	2		
	13	WHC and UNESCO Beijing Office supported the Gov. of China in implementing several conservation and rehabilitation projects for two WH properties affected by the Sichuan earthquake: Mount Qincheng and Dujiangyan Irrigation System and the Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries. Funding was provided through two emergency assistance requests from the WH Fund, the Rapid Response Facility (RRF) and EXB funding from Mercedes-Benz.		1			
	14	Dir/WHC represented UNESCO at the first Governing Board of the WH Institute of Training and Research for the APA Region (WHITR-AP), a UNESCO Category II Centre, (Beijing, 23/24 Jul. 08). Supported by WHC and IUCN, China's Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development and WHITR-AP organized a National Workshop on the Tentative List of natural and mixed WH properties (Beijing, China, Jan.09): priority sites for WH inscription in the next 10 years selected.	1		2		

RESULTS BY REGION	Serial number	ACTIVITIES	Credibility	Conservation	Capacity building	Communication	Communities
		WHC provided advice and participated in training of Chinese educators at WH Education Forum organized by WHITR-AP in Suzhou, China (Dec. 08).			1	2	
	15	WHC supported a training programme on Cultural Heritage Specialist Guides, focusing on improving tourism management at heritage sites in South-East and East Asia: several national workshops organized in Cambodia, Viet Nam and Thailand in 2008; training material on heritage guides produced in Chinese, English, Khmer, Lao and Thai; training modules available for selected WH sites.			1	2	
		Sub-regional consultation workshop to review standards and plan for national training programmes organized (Macao SAR, China, Jan. 09), training provided to assist the participating countries in preparing and implementing the Cultural Heritage Specialist Guide programme at their WH sites.			1	2	
	16	Series of workshops on the Conservation and Management of Persian, Timurid and Moghul Architecture organized in Uzbekistan (2008) and India (Apr. 09) by WHC in cooperation with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), UNESCO New Delhi Office and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture: site managers' awareness increased, conservation and management at WH sites with Islamic architecture improved, and sub-regional exchange of knowledge on conservation techniques and management systems facilitated.		2	1		
	17	As part of the Preservation of the Frozen Tombs of the Altai Mountains project, exhibit set up at UNESCO HQ in Apr. 08 and a publication produced in 1000 copies and disseminated with the support of the Flanders FIT.	2			1	
EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A more representative, credible and balanced World Heritage List ensured</i> • <i>National capacities for the</i> 	1	WHC participated in the conference "World Heritage in Danger" (Eisenach and Weimar, Germany, Oct. 08) organized by the German Association of WH sites: awareness of threats to WH properties improved among over 80 representatives from German WH sites and neighbouring countries; Wartburg Declaration adopted.		1		2	
	2	International conference "Earth, Wind, Water, Fire - Environmental Challenges to Urban World Heritage" organized by the regional office of the OWHC (Regensburg, Germany, Sep. 08). WHC participated along with experts from over 15 European States Parties to discuss strategies for the protection of historic towns from environmental risks and natural hazards. "Regensburg Declaration" adopted, encouraging closer cooperation among organizations and inclusion of natural disasters analysis and risk management in their work.		1		2	
	3	WHC participated in 2nd Conference of the Alliance of WH Cultural Landscapes (Sintra, Portugal, Sep. 08) to provide guidance in setting up a WH cultural landscapes network and to advise on management issues.		2	1		

RESULTS BY REGION	Serial number	ACTIVITIES	Credibility	Conservation	Capacity building	Communication	Communities
<p><i>conservation and management of heritage properties strengthened, including for World Heritage in Danger</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>World Heritage sites protected, against the impact of new global challenges</i> <i>Awareness and involvement of local communities reinforced</i> 	4	WHC participated in the Periodic Reporting Follow-Up Meeting for the Mediterranean European Sub-region (Tomar, Portugal, May 09); recommendations adopted by focal points of 10 States Parties.		2	1		
	5	As a follow up to the International Seminar on “Culture and Tourism, Factors of Sustainable Development” (Danube Delta, Romania, Sep. 08), pilot project “Integrated Culture and Tourism strategy for sustainable development in Danube Delta” launched. The project addresses MDGs and aims to implement a sustainable development strategy integrating tourism with heritage safeguarding and conservation.		2	1	2	
	6	In the framework of the International Polar Year, WHC participated in the International Expert Meeting organized by UNESCO (Monaco, Mar. 09) on “Climate Change and Arctic Sustainable Development: scientific, social, cultural and educational challenges” along with 43 experts. The meeting called for a comprehensive, interdisciplinary, multi-actor and long-term approach to achieving sustainable development in the Arctic.	2	1			
	7	Publication on “The walled City of Baku - An Inventory Project” published and disseminated in 2008, funded by Netherlands.				1	
<p>LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>A more representative, credible and balanced World Heritage List ensured</i> <i>National capacities for the conservation and</i> 	1	Meeting on the revision of the Tentative List of Brazil (Rio de Janeiro, Oct. 08) organized with scientific input and facilitating by WHC. Representatives of ICOMOS, IUCN, members of the WH Committee and international experts, as well as 50 law, anthropology, linguistics, archaeology, geography and architecture professionals participated; potential for the nomination of mixed sites and feasibility for serial (national or trans-national) and trans-boundary nominations in the region confirmed.	1				
	2	Serial nomination of Qhapaq Ñan: comprehensive database including registration of the road, archaeological sites, cultural landscapes, environmental resources and ethnographic components close to finalization.	1				
	3	Intervention works prepared at Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works, Chile, following the Plan of Priority Interventions, with focus on immediate structural reinforcements for 29 emblematic buildings.		1			
	4	Restoration project for the Colegio Pinillos in Mompox, Colombia finalized (Feb. 09). Works carried out by Ministry of Culture. WHC worked closely with Colombian authorities and craftsmen companies for the conception of the technical intervention.		1			

RESULTS BY REGION	Serial number	ACTIVITIES	Credibility	Conservation	Capacity building	Communication	Communities
<p><i>management of heritage properties strengthened, including for World Heritage in Danger</i></p> <p>• <i>World Heritage sites protected, against the impact of new global challenges</i></p> <p>• <i>Awareness and involvement of local communities reinforced</i></p>	5	Preservation and Conservation Action Plan for the Spiritual and Political Centre of the Tiwanaku Culture, Bolivia, Operation Plan funded by Japan signed (Nov.08) and implementation of the project started.		1			
	6	Mapping of subterranean river systems in the Yucatan which lead to the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, Mexico undertaken to better inform municipal decision makers on waste-water management policies.		1			
	7	Feasibility study on new tourism models for the Galapagos Islands (Ecuador) completed to support policy development.		1			
	8	Assistance in the participation of park rangers from South American WH sites in the VI World Congress for park rangers in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia (to take place in Nov. 09) ongoing.			1		
	9	Capacity-building Caribbean: Emergency Technical Missions accompanying Cuban Heritage Authorities to the Valley of Viñales after hurricanes hit Cuba and harshly affected area (Sep. 08).			1		
	10	Workshop with UNESCO Montevideo Office studying the adjustment of Caribbean Capacity-Building Programme (CCBP) Modules 2 and 3 to the needs of MERCOSUR (Buenos Aires, Dec. 08). Publication of the five modules for training materials in English, French and Spanish, plus a multimedia tool, Web site and poster, in progress.			1	2	
	11	Technical and financial contribution to University of the Netherlands Antilles (Curacao) for implementing CCBP Module 5, envisaged June 2009, in progress.			1		
	12	Exchange with the Zacatecas Government (Mexico), the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia and Mexican authorities (Jan. 09) in view of a consultation meeting to identify the conditions for a UNESCO Category II Centre on WH in Zacatecas.			1		
	13	Collaboration with the Government of Brazil to prepare a feasibility study for a Regional Heritage Management Training Centre in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, as a UNESCO Category II Centre for examination by 181st EXB session (Apr. 09).			1		
	14	10-day workshop held on anticipating and mitigating climate change impacts in marine protected areas and WH properties, targeting Ecuador, Colombia, Panama and Costa Rica (Galapagos, Apr. 09).			1		
	15	Reinforcement of the guidelines on participatory processes prepared for Xochimilco, Mexico, based on Participatory Management Plan of the site (2009).					1

RESULTS WH PROGRAMMES	Serial number	ACTIVITIES	Credibility	Conservation	Capacity building	Communication	Communities
MARINE For SIDS see WHC-09/33.COM/5B. • <i>National capacities for the conservation and management of heritage properties strengthened.</i>	1	Management plan for Coiba National Park and Marine Reserve, Panama, completed, including the installation of marker buoys identifying marine boundaries (Apr. 09).		1			
	2	Feasibility study on the expansion of the Cocos Island marine reserve, Costa Rica completed (Feb. 09).	2	1			
	3	Legal instruments for conserving marine areas in Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Panama published and distributed to relevant decision makers via workshops in these four countries in 2008 and 2009.		2	1		
	4	Global workshop in cooperation with IUCN and the government of Bahrain held with a special focus on the Arabian Gulf and Rea Sea regions (Bahrain, Feb. 09) – leading to the forthcoming publication of an Action Plan for the WH Marine Programme.			1	2	
CITIES • <i>Development of new strategic policy lines for historic urban landscape conservation ensured</i> • <i>National capacities for the conservation and management of</i>	1	Expert Planning Meeting organized on Historic Urban Landscapes, funded by Netherlands (UNESCO HQs, Paris, 13-14 Nov. 08).		1			
	2	Cochin Conservation Plan started in Nov. 08, funded by Netherlands (decentralized to UNESCO New Delhi Office) to develop a comprehensive statutory Conservation Plan for the historic town of Cochin and its buffer zone, including planning regulations and graphic document, guidelines for conservation works and new construction.		1			
	3	"Full preliminary study of the technical and legal aspects of a revised recommendation concerning the safeguarding and contemporary role of historic areas" presented in Apr. 09 at the 181EXB (see WHC-09/33.COM/7.1).		1		2	
	4	Capacity Building Program for the Historic inner city of Paramaribo, Suriname - phase 1: Final report submitted (Aug. 08) funded by Netherlands.			1		

RESULTS WH PROGRAMMES	Serial number	ACTIVITIES	Credibility	Conservation	Capacity building	Communication	Communities
<p><i>heritage properties strengthened</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Awareness and involvement of local communities reinforced</i> 	5	<p>Support to city to city cooperation initiative in the field of heritage conservation and management, and capacity training of city planning staff:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chandigarh, India/Firminy-Saint-Etienne, France city to city cooperation. Cooperation program developed for study tour in spring 2009. - Saint-Louis du Sénégal, Senegal/Lille Metropolitan Area, France: site management and capacity training, and conservation and project development with French development agency. - Riga, Latvia/Lyon and Bordeaux France, city to city cooperation. Capacity training and conservation and management. Master plan development and pilote project in buffer zone area of Riga. Support from France-UNESCO (Sep. 08). - Luang-Prabang, RDP Laos/Chinon, Région Centre, France: capacity building, management and urban conservation, and territorial planning. 		2			1
<p>SUSTAINABLE TOURISM</p> <p><i>See Annex to this document</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Network of partners reinforced</i> <i>Sustainable tourism promoted, and local communities empowered with regard to the management and conservation of World Heritage sites</i> 	1	<p>Ongoing TNC/UNF Project: 1) enhancing tourism and public-use planning at 5 natural WH sites in Latin America; 2) at Three Parallel Rivers, China, focus on sustainable tourism and local Yunnan ethnic communities through capacity-building on ecotourism, involving international and local tour operators; 3) at Phong Nha-Ke Bang, Viet Nam, expert advice on a tourism public planning framework developed (Feb. 09).</p>			1		2
	2	<p>Cooperation with UNWTO: creation of a site Observatory for Sustainable Tourism in China (feedback from Huangshan UNESCO/UNWTO International Conference).</p>			1	2	
	3	<p>Project launched on tourism planning and management in Montenegro, with the aim to establish Learning Platforms for site staff capacity building (Feb. 09, funded by Flanders FIT).</p>			1		
	4	<p>2nd Expert Meeting on Sustainable Tourism at WH Sites organized (Switzerland, Oct. 08). Cooperation and possible synergies with the tourism industry discussed within framework of WH Sustainable Tourism Programme.</p>	2	1			

RESULTS WH PROGRAMMES	Serial number	ACTIVITIES	Credibility	Conservation	Capacity building	Communication	Communities
EARTHEN ARCHITECTURE <i>See Annex to this document</i> Coordination of international efforts to safeguard earthen architecture sites strengthened	1	Conservation project for Africa launched in Nov. 08 (funded by Italy) with the following components: pilot rehabilitation project in Djenné, Mali; elaboration of building regulations, management plans and technical guidelines for cities with earthen architectural structures (Djenné/Timbuktu, Mali and Lalibela, Ethiopia); conducting of socio-economic/tourism studies and capacity-building activities (regional/international on-site training); promotional/advocacy activities (publications, teaching material, international conference).		1	2	2	2
	2	-up of the safeguarding project of Hassan Fathi's New Gournia Village in Luxor, Egypt with a preparatory phase aiming at developing a project document which indicates details on all activities to be implemented (Apr.09).		1			
	3	A costed multi-year programme document on the World Heritage Earthen Architecture Programme for 2007-2017 finalized in Jan. 09 and distributed to professionals and potential donors.				1	
	4	"Mediterra 2009", 1st Mediterranean Conference on Earthen Architecture, organized by Università di Cagliari, Escola Superior Gallaecia and CRATerre-ENSAG and RAS Regione Autonoma della Sardegna in Mar.09 under the aegis of UNESCO WHC, ICCROM, ICOMOS-ISCEAH, and the Getty Conservation Institute.				1	

RESULTS WH INITIATIVE	Serial number	ACTIVITIES	Credibility	Conservation	Capacity building	Communication	Communities
ASTRONOMY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A more representative, credible and balanced World Heritage List ensured</i> • <i>Network of partners reinforced</i> • <i>Promotion of World Heritage increased</i> 	1	International Astronomical Union (IAU) working group started to develop, in coordination with WHC and ICOMOS, a thematic study on astronomical heritage, in line with Decision 32 COM 10A.	1				
	2	In the framework of the UN Year of Astronomy and as a follow up to the workshop on Science, Technology and World Heritage (London, UK Jan. 08) the International Workshop and Expert Meeting "Starlight Reserves and World Heritage – Scientific, Cultural and Environmental Values", organized in Fuerteventura, Spain (Mar. 09). 32 experts from 10 countries participated; detailed recommendations for the thematic study on astronomy and WH, the protection of dark skies at WH properties and other protected areas adopted.	1				
	3	On 30 October 2008, signature of the MoU between UNESCO and IAU aiming to carry out the Implementation Strategy of the Initiative on Astronomy.	1	2		2	

RESULTS COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTNERSHIPS	Serial number	ACTIVITIES	Credibility	Conservation	Capacity building	Communication	Communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>National capacities for the conservation and management of heritage properties strengthened</i> • <i>Network of partners expanded</i> • <i>Awareness of the Convention among young people increased</i> • <i>World Heritage information, education and knowledge management tools developed</i> • <i>Promotion of World Heritage increased</i> 	1	Four issues of the quarterly magazine <i>World Heritage</i> published in English, French and Spanish (print run per issue 38,000). Themes: 'Special Issue on Canada' (N° 50, Jul. 08); 'Spiritual Heritage + Reinstallation of the Aksum Obelisk' (N° 51, Oct. 08); 'Earth/Geological Heritage' (N° 52, 1st quarter 2009); 'Special Issue on Spanish World Heritage' (N° 53, 2nd quarter 2009). In partnership with Pressgroup Holdings Europe.				1	
	2	N° 24 of WH Paper Series <i>Rock Art in the Caribbean</i> published in collaboration with the Regional Council of Guadeloupe and the Spanish FIT (Jun. 08) and disseminated.		2		1	
	3	UNESCO World Heritage Desk Diary 2009 published with a print run of 4,500.				1	
	4	E-mail newsletters "WH-Info" sent on 21 October 2008 and 11 February 2009 to 60,000 registered members of WH website.				1	
	5	WHC website expanded: most of the processes of the Convention are now available online for consultation or input with different access levels (nominations, tentative lists, ratification, decisions, working documents, periodic reporting ...).			2	1	
	6	WHC website received 19,815 visits per day in March 2009 (an increase of 12% compared to March 08). Since April 2008, 9825 members registered to WHC website. Total number of members as per Mar. 09: 66,822.				1	
	7	Since August 2008 donations are managed online. As of end March 2009, 125 donations had been made online for an amount of 1580€ + 3437\$+905 pounds + 35 Suisse Francs + 15600 Yen (total of close to US\$7,000)				1	
	8	100,000 WH Maps (Eng/Fr/Sp) produced with UNF support in collaboration with National Geographic Maps. In addition to dissemination through national commissions and UNESCO field offices, maps are now being distributed online through a mailing cost-recovery policy. Local-language editions of National Geographic Magazine (in Bulgarian, Czech, Danish, Finnish, Norwegian, Romanian, Serbian and Swedish) ensured distribution of over 200,000 copies of the 2007-08 and 2008-09 versions of the Map.				1	
	9	In collaboration with Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service launch of the project "WH Volunteers, Patrimonto rolls up the sleeves"; 12 youth camp activities organized in 10 countries (Jun. – Oct. 08); 180 international volunteers from 23 countries and 360 local volunteer participants, youth NGOs worked on-site in cooperation with site authorities and local communities; synergies created between the volunteer organizations, local community and site management.			1	2	2

RESULTS COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTNERSHIPS	Serial number	ACTIVITIES	Credibility	Conservation	Capacity building	Communication	Communities
	10	2nd edition of the WH Volunteers project launched in Jan. 09 with 11 youth projects related to 3 natural and 8 cultural WH sites (4 in Asia, 3 in Europe, 2 in LAC and 2 in AFR).			1	2	
	11	Storyboard Competition on <i>The Great Barrier Reef and Climate Change</i> launched (Sep. 08) in cooperation with Australian government and ASPnet among secondary schools in Australia (1900 registrations). Best storyboard selected and professionally animated as the 7th episode of the 'Patrimonto's WH Adventures' cartoon series; a first screening made during the UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development (Bonn, Germany Mar. 09); 3000 CDs produced (May 09) for global distribution.			2	1	
	12	National storyboard competition on the theme <i>Challenges of Living in a WH City</i> launched in Spain (Jan. 09) in cooperation with Spanish Ministry of Culture and the UNESCO ASPnet; best storyboard selected and professionally animated, as the 8th episode of the 'Patrimonto's WH Adventures' cartoon series.			2	1	
	13	Ongoing work on the multimedia educational resource "World Heritage with Young People: Discovery through Multimedia" (website) to be produced in DVD format for pilot-testing (in cooperation with national commissions of Cuba, Egypt, France, Greece, Morocco, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Senegal, Spain and Uzbekistan).			2	1	
	14	A 3-year partnership agreement signed with Jaeger-LeCoultre (Switzerland) and the International Herald Tribune in support of the WH Marine Programme. Funding provided will serve to develop a multi-media campaign and enable the recruitment of a Programme Specialist under a 3-year ALD. Articles about WH Marine sites and the issues they face published each month in IHT and web sites of IHT.com and NYT.com. Jaeger-LeCoultre also provided a direct contribution to the site of Tubbataha (Philippines) through an online auction launched in February 09.		1		2	
	15	Agreement signed (Dec. 08) with JAXA, Japan's Aerospace Exploration Agency, to support UNESCO in the context of its work with the European Space Agency: "Open Initiative on the use of space technologies for the benefit of WH sites" will help document and monitor the conservation of WH sites.		1		2	
	16	MoU under development with the Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment (UK) to establish a network of experts, develop WH-specific training modules concerning urban planning in a historical context, contribute to the preparation of management plans for WH properties and develop best practices on the role of contemporary architecture in historic urban areas.			1		

RESULTS COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTNERSHIPS	Serial number	ACTIVITIES	Credibility	Conservation	Capacity building	Communication	Communities
	17	Partnership concluded in 2009 with the World Air League (USA) to launch and promote a World Sky Race of Lighter than Air skyships. This worldwide sporting event due to begin in 2010/ 2011 has obtained the support of a growing number of countries that the race will fly over. The project will highlight the importance of WH conservation, and contribute funding generated mainly through sponsorships to sustainable tourism and WH education activities.				1	
	18	A first meeting of the informal working group on the WH emblem held on 24 February at UNESCO HQ to discuss the harmonization of the text of the Operational Guidelines (Chapter VIII) with the UNESCO Directives concerning the use of its name and logo. A report of the working group is available to all States Parties through the WH website. A report on uses of the World Heritage emblem granted in 2008-2009 is available on the WH website.				1	

IV. Draft Decision

Draft Decision: 33 COM 5A

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Documents WHC-09/33.COM/5A and WHC-09/33.COM/INF.5A.1, WHC-09/33.COM/INF.5A.2, WHC-09/33.COM/INF.5A.3,*
2. *Recalling Decision **32 COM 5** adopted at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008),*
3. *Takes note with appreciation of the results of the activities undertaken by the World Heritage Centre over the past year in pursuit of its five Strategic Objectives;*
4. *Takes note also of the findings of the study undertaken by UNESCO's Internal Oversight Service on the mapping of the workload of the World Heritage Centre presented in Document WHC-09/33.COM/INF.5A.3;*
5. *Requests the World Heritage Centre to produce, on an experimental basis, an audio verbatim recording of the proceedings of its 33rd session in addition to the Summary Records for decision at its 34th session in 2010;*
6. *Expresses its gratitude to the Governments of Spain, South Africa and Bahrain for the financial and technical support for various international scientific encounters on prehistory;*
7. *Adopts the World Heritage Thematic Programme on Prehistory presented in the Annex 1 of the Document WHC-09/33.COM/5A and requests the World Heritage Centre to present a report on its outcomes at its 35th session in 2011;*
8. *Takes note of the progress on the World Heritage Tourism Programme, including the work undertaken through the Sustainable Tourism Initiative to develop overarching criteria and shared working principles and approaches to enhance the quality and effectiveness of sustainable tourism at World Heritage properties;*
9. *Thanks the Governments of France, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, India, Australia and China who have worked in close cooperation with World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, the UNWTO and other partners by contributing to the Sustainable Tourism Initiative and developing best practice policy guidance and recommending appropriate changes to the Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention;*
10. *Requests the World Heritage Centre to present a report on the outcomes of the sustainable Tourism Initiative at its 34th session in 2010;*
11. *Takes particular note of the contribution of the other World Heritage Thematic Programmes and Initiatives to the implementation of its Strategic Objectives and requests the Director of the World Heritage Centre to identify extra budgetary funding and ensure adequate staffing for their continued development on key World Heritage conservation issues.*

WORLD HERITAGE THEMATIC PROGRAMME ON PREHISTORY**I. Background and justification**

1. At its 32nd session, the World Heritage Committee, in paragraph 11 of Decision **32 COM 10A**, thanked the Government of Spain for its generous offer to fund a thematic study on prehistoric sites. Financed by the Spanish Funds-in-Trust, and as a special programme for the Spanish Chair of the Committee, it was considered pertinent to start a very demanding one-year process of consultation with academic experts, scientific institutions, Advisory Bodies representatives, members of the World Heritage Committee and national experts to identify priorities for cooperation on Prehistory in the framework of the Global Strategy for World Heritage.
2. Prehistory covers two and a half million years of billions of different artefacts, cultural manifestations, kinds of domestic or burial settlements and ways of colonizing even the most extreme geographies of the planet. Such a time span is further expanded when considering the antecessors of human lineage. Prehistory embodies a huge temporal development, and conveys a transcendent and significant quantity of biological, social and cultural processes related to human evolution. Prehistory is used to describe the earliest periods of humankind on the Earth, implying archaeological methodologies and applied research to interpret the nature and behaviour of the early phases of human records and recalls attention to the wisdom and, indeed, challenge, to integrate culture and nature to identify the Outstanding Universal Value of the prehistoric properties.
3. Properties with strong links to Prehistory are the least represented on the World Heritage List and located in all the regions of the world. The values of these properties are not sufficiently recognized, and it is often challenging for States Parties to conserve this heritage and manage its specific vulnerability.
4. Currently there are 170 sites on the Tentative List that reveal Prehistoric findings. Determining the precise number of sites presents a particular challenge as it is difficult to found a clear and undisputable chronology for Prehistory in all continents. There is a need to accommodate early cultural phenomena by geographical and non-chronological classification.
5. Under the Spanish Funds-in-Trust, a generous financial contribution was received from the Ministry of Culture of Spain to carry out all the related activities between August 2008 and May 2009 focused on the scientific study of the World Heritage List and the Tentative List to identify priorities for conservation and management of the sites, as well as to generate a twinning system for collaboration among sites.
6. In August 2008, the World Heritage Centre began a study of the prehistoric sites inscribed on World Heritage List and the Tentative List and produced discussion documents to be analysed.

7. The World Heritage Centre organized an International Expert Meeting, *Prehistory and the World Heritage Convention: Towards an Action Plan and the related thematic studies*, at UNESCO Headquarters on 3 to 4 November 2009, to establish the foundations for the future development, strategy and implementation of the initiative, based on discussions between 18 international experts and representatives of the Advisory Bodies ICCROM, IUCN and ICOMOS. Following the meeting, three main thematic areas were established: Human Evolution, Rock Art and Prehistoric Sites, and a calendar of activities was proposed to structure subsequent developments based on these three key areas.
8. The International Meeting, *Human Evolution and the World Heritage Convention*, Burgos, Spain, 21 to 25 March, 2009, considered sites containing hominid findings, both inscribed or yet to be inscribed on the World Heritage List, as well as evaluated the thematic area of Human Evolution within the context of the *Convention*. It involved the participation of 20 international experts, representatives of Advisory Bodies ICOMOS and IUCN, and scientific institutions from 14 States Parties.
9. The International Meeting, *Rock Art and the World Heritage Convention*, uKhahlamba/ Drakensburg Park, South Africa, 3 to 8 April 2009 involved the participation of 44 governmental delegates, Advisory Bodies' representatives, international experts and site managers. The meeting aimed to identify key values, issues and priorities in the area of Rock Art, particularly concerning its management, conservation and documentation in relation to World Heritage status.
10. *Prehistoric Sites and the World Heritage Convention*, Bahrain, 10 to 14 May, currently under preparation, will include the participation of 20 participants from 15 States Parties and Advisory Bodies, and will focus on the cultural phenomena of Neolithic, Megalithic, Bronze Age and Late Prehistoric Periods. The Draft Action Plan on Prehistory and World Heritage will also be finalized during this Meeting.
11. Close cooperation with scientific institutions of interdisciplinary research and applied research for conservation has been established, including: Origins Centre/ University of Witwatersrand (South Africa), University of Dar Es Salaam (Tanzania), College de France, Musée de l'Homme, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (France), Università degli studi di Roma La Sapienza (Italy), Altamira National Museum and Research Centre, Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Spain), University of Cambridge (UK), Harvard University (USA), Berkeley University (USA), Universidad de Buenos Aires (Argentina), Georgian State Museum (Georgia), Kyoto University (Japan), Hanyang University Museum (Korea), the National Museum of the Philippines (Philippines) and the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology (China), among others.
12. Since August 2008, the World Heritage Centre has been working in cooperation with the Advisory Bodies ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN. Several thematic studies will be prepared by the Advisory Bodies (2009-2011) to supplement developments of the Programme, conservation and nomination process.

13. Over 70 Permanent Delegations to UNESCO have been contacted in relation to information on the site managers and/or management authority of prehistoric properties on the World Heritage List and the Tentative List in order to establish cooperation and complete a questionnaire of the sites. Throughout the activities of the Programme, the WHC has been working in close cooperation with experts from Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Ethiopia, France, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Namibia, Philippines, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Tanzania, U.K., USA, Zambia and Zimbabwe. An international roster of national experts and site managers of prehistoric sites is in preparation to promote coordination among experts, international institutions, site managers and the Advisory Bodies.
14. A Meeting and Workshop for the re-evaluation of the Tentative List of Israel, held in Mount Carmel, Israel, 26 to 29 December 2008, was organized in collaboration with the Israel National Commission for UNESCO, site managers, national experts and the World Heritage Centre to update the Tentative List of Israel, focused on prehistoric sites, to establish the necessary foundations to implement the Action Plan on Prehistory and World Heritage at national level and providing guidance to comparative studies.
15. A database of documentation and discussion forum within the website of the WHC is in preparation to provide a knowledge resource and to reinforce the established international cooperation and further developments of the Programme.

II. Objectives of the Action Plan on Prehistory and World Heritage

16. The key objectives of the special programme, the Action Plan on Prehistory and World Heritage, are to:
 - establish links between scientific research and conservation by recognizing the scientific values of properties related to Prehistory;
 - operate within the framework of the Global Strategy, launched by the World Heritage Committee in 1994, to broaden the definition of World Heritage in better reflecting the full spectrum of the world's cultural and natural treasures;
 - recognize sites that are outstanding demonstrations of traces of the earliest interaction between humankind and the land, early cultural behaviour, cognitive steps and creative expressions;
 - preserve the identified properties from progressive deterioration due to their ancient chronology and vulnerable fabric.
17. The properties that can be associated with Prehistory have initially been defined in the following manner:
 - i. Prehistoric human evolution sites;
 - ii. Prehistoric rock art sites;
 - iii. Prehistoric sites associated to major cultural phenomena.

This consideration also includes:

- a) Long sequence sites whose initial chronology is connected to prehistory;
 - b) Properties with an important link to the history of Prehistory;
 - c) Prehistoric settlements/traces inside natural World Heritage properties.
18. The World Heritage Centre expressed its interest to identify key international scientific organizations to undertake a partnership agreement to assure the follow-up of the initiative in collaboration with the World Heritage Committee, representatives of the States Parties, Advisory Bodies, and the specialized institutions.
19. Among the intersectoral activities of UNESCO, the Action Plan on Prehistory and World Heritage offers potential for a focal cross-cutting programme for the Culture and Science Sectors.
20. A closer collaboration between the scientific community, the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre will strengthen the implementation of the Action Plan on Prehistory.

III. Expected Outcomes

21. The Programme will achieve the following results through the implementation of the Action Plan on Prehistory in the period of the Medium Term Strategy 2009 – 2013:
- i. Conservation. Create twinning initiatives between prehistoric World Heritage properties to share best practice methodologies for conservation and management and to develop applied research;
 - ii. Capacity-building. Foster close cooperation between international and national experts, universities, research institutions, Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre to develop capacity-building programmes on management and conservation for World Heritage prehistoric sites;
 - iii. Credibility. Update and revise national and regional Tentative Lists based on thematic studies undertaken by the Advisory Bodies;
 - iv. Communication. Launch a webpage on Prehistory on the World Heritage Centre website to establish a resource database, a global network of information exchange and an online forum. Monographic issues on Prehistory will be published as part of the World Heritage Papers series;
 - v. Communities. Set up a World Heritage community to develop cooperation on prehistoric matters through the creation of a roster of experts, site managers, Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre. The Action Plan is foreseen to strengthen cooperation with local communities and assess participatory methodologies as the initial stage of the nomination process.

PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WH EARTHEN ARCHITECTURE PROGRAMME (2007-2017), A PROGRAMME IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ICOMOS, ICCROM AND CRATERRE

The World Heritage Earthen Architecture Programme was adopted at the 31st session of the World Heritage Committee (Christchurch, 2007). The following paragraphs report on the implementation progress and present the costed multi year programme as requested by Decision **31 COM 21C**.

1. On 22 November 2007, a consultation meeting on the programme was held with the intention to identify most appropriate strategies and course of action for the forthcoming of the programme. Leading international specialists in the field of earthen architecture participated in the meeting. As an outcome of the meeting, the programme and fundraising strategy as well as the management structure could be streamlined, and a plan of action was set up, all of which could be considered for the revision of the promotional leaflet and the final programme document.
2. In February 2008, the programme supported the organization of the 10th International Conference on the Study and Conservation of Earthen Architectural Heritage, Terra 2008, held in Bamako (Mali) from 1 to 5 February 2008. It was the first Terra Conference to be held in Africa, and convened over 450 international specialists in fields linked to the conservation of earthen architecture (e.g. anthropology, archaeology, architecture, engineering, scientific research, site management and sustainable development). Thanks to the financial support of the World Heritage Fund and the French-UNESCO Convention, the programme funded the participation of 22 experts from all regions of the world (Latin America, Africa, Europe, Arab States, and Asia) and the financial support of other donors allowed the participation of many more experts from developing countries, and particularly from the African region. The conference was organized by the Getty Conservation Institute and the Ministry of Culture of Mali in collaboration with UNESCO/World Heritage Centre, Africa 2009, CRAterre, ICCROM and ICOMOS. At this occasion, the Phase I of the programme was officially launched, and the information-brochure on the programme as well as the World Heritage Magazine devoted to it was broadly distributed.
3. In July 2008, the Italian Government approved the "Conservation project for Africa in the framework of the World Heritage programme for Earthen Architecture" with a donation of 500,000 US\$ thus allowing the launching of the programme's Phase II (Pilot phase in Africa and Arab States, 2009-2010). Several conservational activities are foreseen under this project, including the preparation of building regulations, a pilot restoration project in Djenné (Mali) and the organization of training activities at the *Ecole du patrimoine Africain (EPA)* (Benin) and at the University of Udine (Italy). Further, an international conference on the conservation of earthen architectural World Heritage sites is planned to be held in Italy, in 2010. A first consultation meeting with potential

project partners was organized, on 8 December 2008, to define a plan of action and agree on the responsibilities.

4. In September 2008, the document for the World Heritage programme for Earthen Architecture was finalized providing detailed information on the four phases and a multi-year budget of the programme. The document allowed the start of the fundraising activities and since then it has been distributed to a wide range of experts, potential donors and partner organizations.
5. An inventory of all properties containing earthen architectural structures included in the World Heritage or the Tentative Lists of the States Parties is being prepared by CRATERRE-ENSAG (School of Architecture of Grenoble, France) with the support of the French Government of 20,000 EUR. The inventory will allow a thorough analysis of the earthen architectural properties providing a means to identify typologies and to reflect the current conditions and state of conservation of these properties.
6. An expert meeting of professionals from all regions of the world will be organized in autumn 2009, in Morocco, aiming for the development of the programme's implementation strategy in the Arab region. The meeting receives funding from the Bahraini private joint initiative for World Heritage, Shaikh Ebrahim Al Khalifa Centre for Culture and Research (SECCR)/ ARCAPITA Bank.
7. The adopted fundraising strategy has enabled the Centre to mobilize 572,772 US\$ from extra budgetary funding in addition to the seed money of a total of 80,000 US\$ granted from the World Heritage Fund. The international donors are:
 - Government of Italy: 500,000 US\$
 - Government of France (French-UNESCO Convention): 44,772 US\$
 - Private joint Bahraini initiative in favour of World Heritage, Shaikh Ebrahim Al Khalifa Centre for Culture and Research (SECCR)/ ARCAPITA Bank: 28,000 US\$
8. Overall programme budget per phase / year (2009 – 2017)
The estimated overall costs for the implementation of the programme throughout its 10 years duration amounts up to 15,000,000 US\$. The below table reflects the distribution of the total amount per year.

Estimated budget 2009 - 2017 (Summary) / Currency : USD

Objective 1	Phase 2 Africa and Arab States			Phase 3 Latin America and Central Asia			Phase 4 Europe and Asia		
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
	1.1. Studies conducted at 12 sites (4 per phase)	37 800	37 800		41 580	41 580		45 360	45 360
1.2. In-depth evaluation of past interventions undertaken at 6 sites (2 per phase)	39 150	39 150		43 065	43 065		46 980	46 980	
1.3. Pilot projects at 12 sites (4 per phase)	208 800	208 800	208 800	229 680	229 680	229 680	250 560	250 560	250 560
1.4. Technical specifications for the conservation of 6 historic towns (2 per phase)		40 500	40 500		44 550	44 550		48 600	48 600
1.5. Technical specifications for the inclusion of modern infrastructures for 6 sites (2 per phase)	24 300	37 125	12 825	26 730	40 838	14 108	29 160	44 550	15 390
1.6. Management plans produced for 12 sites (4 per phase)	54 000	81 000	81 000	59 400	89 100	89 100	64 800	97 200	97 200
1.7. Coordination of field activities	54 000	54 000	54 000	59 400	59 400	59 400	64 800	64 800	64 800
TOTAL OBJECTIVE 1	418 050	498 375	397 125	459 855	548 213	436 838	501 660	598 050	476 550
Objective 2	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
2.1. Publication	38 475			42 323			55 890		55 890
2.2. Preparation of awareness and promotional material	70 875	60 750	33 750	38 610	25 988	74 250	30 780	20 250	121 500
2.3. International conferences	20 250	179 550	6 750	29 700	343 035	22 275	93 960	284 020	25 000
2.4. Technical/thematic seminars	27 000	112 050	6 750	29 700	343 035	22 275	32 400	249 480	16 200
2.5. Research programmes	5 400	16 200	32 400	80 000	80 000	80 000	80 000	80 000	80 000
2.6. Training courses (2 per phase)	20 250	247 050	226 800	22 275	271 755	249 480	24 300	296 460	272 160
2.7. Follow-up of participants activities		25 650	25 650		5 940	5 940		6 480	6 480
2.8. Participation of experts from other regions to the activities	40 500	40 500	40 500	44 550	44 550	44 550	48 600	48 600	48 600
2.9. Coordination of regional and international activities	60 750	60 750	60 750	66 825	66 825	66 825	72 900	72 900	72 900
2.10. Publication of the results of the programme			40 500			44 550		48 000	72 000
TOTAL OBJECTIVE 2	283 500	742 500	473 850	324 283	838 093	587 870	438 830	1 106 190	770 730
Management and monitoring	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
3.1. Steering committee meetings	45 968	45 968	45 968	50 564	50 564	50 564	55 161	55 161	55 161
3.2. Overall management	202 500	202 500	202 500	222 750	222 750	222 750	243 000	243 000	243 000
3.3. External evaluation of the programme			72 900			80 190			87 480
3.4. Audit		8 100	24 300		8 910	26 730		9 720	29 160
TOTAL MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING	248 468	256 568	345 668	273 314	282 224	380 234	298 161	307 881	414 801
TOTAL OPERATIONAL COSTS per year	950 018	1 497 443	1 216 643	1 057 452	1 668 529	1 404 942	1 238 651	2 012 121	1 662 081
TOTAL OPERATIONAL COSTS per phase	3 664 103			4 130 923			4 912 853		
GRAND TOTAL OPERATIONAL COSTS	12 707 878								
Support costs (13%)	1 652 024								
Provision for currency fluctuations (5%)	717 995								
GRAND TOTAL	15 077 898								

THE WORLD HERITAGE SUSTAINABLE TOURISM INITIATIVE

Introduction

1. The dramatic current and projected growth of international and domestic travel represents both a challenge and an opportunity for World Heritage properties and surrounding communities. Managing impacts on World Heritage properties caused by public use, and in particular tourism, is a growing management issue. Article 4 of the *World Heritage Convention* clearly states the need for States Parties to consider both conservation and presentation of World Heritage properties; these elements are also integral to addressing tourism management.

2. Sustainable tourism represents a window of opportunity for economic development for the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals and a vehicle to respond to the World Heritage Committee's concern for communities. The challenge lies in careful planning, development and management of visitation such that it does not threaten nor adversely affect the integrity or Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) for which the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List. Simultaneously, there is a need to secure visitation that contributes to sustainable development of the local host community and surrounding regions. The opportunities lie in conserving, presenting and transmitting OUV, and defining the relationship between stakeholders including the tourism industry, site management authorities and local communities in such a way that they contribute to sustaining the heritage values of the sites and a sense of place, while generating socio-economic benefits for the local population.

3. Since its approval by the World Heritage Committee in 2001 (Paragraphs XVII.4 to XVII.12 of Document *WHC-01/CONF.208/24*), the World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Programme has initiated activities and projects, building site staff capacity in public use planning, business development and marketing techniques to create processes for using tourism to promote site conservation. (Document *WHC-06/30.COM/12* sets out the vision, mission, objectives, outputs, outcomes and performance indicators for the Programme). A lesson learned is the need for a broader strategy to enable generation and dissemination of sustainable tourism principles and policies to a wide range of World Heritage properties and stakeholders that influence tourism at World Heritage properties. This strategic approach becomes even more important as UNESCO decentralizes its work to its Field Offices, which often liaise directly with site management authorities.

4. These efforts have reinforced the need to design interventions and focus on the creation of networks and platforms to maximize resources for disseminating sustainable tourism implementation approaches and policies to a wider range of sites. Through its Sustainable Tourism Programme, the World Heritage Centre has instigated the World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Initiative. This Initiative will create regional networks, within which World Heritage properties will be the centres for learning and information. The Initiative can provide a repository for information and guide regional capacity-building in a more co-ordinated and effective manner. Through partnerships, more effective use can be made of the capabilities and strengths of the Advisory Bodies and other organizations such as the United Nations World Tourism Organization, the World Bank and the United Nations Foundation.

II. Overview

5. The World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Initiative for the conservation and presentation of World Heritage properties (The Initiative) has been developed as a co-operative effort between the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies to the World Heritage Committee (IUCN, ICOMOS and ICCROM) and a number of key partners. These key partners include the UN World Tourism Organization, UNEP-DTIE and the Convention on Biodiversity, the UNDP Small Grants Programme, the World Bank, The Nature Conservancy, the UN Foundation and the Nordic World Heritage Foundation. The co-ordination of the Initiative is a primary focus of the World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Programme for the coming years.

6. The goal of the Initiative is to leverage tourism as a tool to conserve and enhance conservation outcomes at and around World Heritage properties, so as to mitigate threats from tourism to World Heritage properties, and to ensure it is responsible and contributes to sustainable development.

7. Following discussions during the February 2009 workshop on the *Future of the World Heritage Convention* and following the interest demonstrated in the Initiative by a number of States Parties such as Australia and interested organizations such as the Nordic World Heritage Foundation and the UN Foundation, it is intended to bring all available interests and opportunities together in a more unified process. Integrating related and complementary tourism activities is also seen as important to the Initiative. These include the Global Sustainable Tourism Criteria, the World Heritage Alliance Performance Evaluation Framework, Sustainable Tourism Stewardship Council Accreditation Scheme, and the Sustainable Investing and Financing for Tourism Network, which have been developed by key partners of the World Heritage Centre, including the UN Foundation, UN World Tourism Organization and UNEP. These complementary processes are being included in the work of a task force on sustainable tourism coordinated by the French Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Spatial Planning within the Marrakech Process on sustainable consumption and production. This process holds the opportunity for linkages to the World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Initiative.

III. Objectives

8. The objectives of the Initiative are proposed as follows:

a. Enhancing World Heritage Committee processes that address the challenges and opportunities of the conservation and presentation of World Heritage properties to the public

This will be accomplished by:

- i. Engaging, collaborating with and informing the World Heritage Committee and the States Parties to the *Convention* on the Initiative at national and site levels;
- ii. Providing policies and processes that support the role of the World Heritage Committee/*Convention* in promoting the goals of the Initiative. This includes exploring the role of the *Operational Guidelines* and its related annexes in addressing tourism and public use issues;
- iii. Identifying the current status of tourism planning and management within World Heritage Properties, and in particular the impacts of tourism, as well as enhancing the Committee's monitoring of them.

b. Developing overarching principles with supporting implementation approaches for sustainable tourism within the framework of the World Heritage Convention; securing their adoption by States Parties, travel and tourism industry and World Heritage site managers and their related agencies and ministries

This will be accomplished by:

- i. Developing the principles synthesized from a number of sources, reflecting the desired standards for sustainable tourism at World Heritage properties;
- ii. Developing supporting implementation approaches to guide the implementation of the overarching principles;
- iii. Developing and implementing a consultative process to ensure consensus on both the principles and implementation approaches;
- iv. Securing visible commitments from private and public sector actors including the tourism industry, to the principles and implementation approaches.

c. Developing an effective capacity building programme

This will be accomplished by:

- i. Enhancing the resources available to support the work of the Sustainable Tourism Programme for its role in capacity-building on sustainable tourism, engaging the Advisory Bodies and partner organisations, within the management of World Heritage properties;
- ii. Developing training materials and innovative delivery systems with a strategy for their implementation;
- iii. Establishing a series of World Heritage “learning platform” sites aimed at building site-management capacity and the capacities of key stakeholders for sustainable regional and local economic development.

IV. Expected outcomes

9. These include

- i. A set of overarching principles reflecting the desired standards for tourism at World Heritage properties, supported by implementation approaches to guide their achievement;
- ii. Revisions and development of new annexes to the *Operational Guidelines* that include tourism and visitor-management guidelines on implementation;
- iii. Robust system to gather data on tourism impacts to enable informed decision-making;
- iv. A package of training materials with implementation strategies for improving site-management;
- v. World Heritage learning platforms and demonstration sites to build management capacity, and promote socio-economic development in each of the five UNESCO regions;
- vi. A sustained World Heritage Tourism Programme acting as a focal point to coordinate relevant initiatives and capacity building for sustainable tourism;
- vii. Pledges by the tourism industry to follow the suggested principles and contribute to sustainable tourism management at World Heritage properties.

V. Process

10. To develop the objectives, the Initiative is carrying out a series of international expert workshops, meetings and consultations from 2008 to 2010. These will engage World Heritage site managers and relevant tourism sector representatives, including the tourism industry. Inputs from these gatherings and the inputs of NGOs, site managers, the tourism industry and States Parties, will help the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to develop the necessary principles as well as supporting implementation approaches for tourism. These criteria will be crafted into a robust tourism capacity-building programme. A consultative process will be developed and implemented to ensure consensus on both the criteria and supporting implementation approaches.

11. So far, work under the Initiative has comprised the following activities:

- i. A meeting, held in France at the Royal Saltworks of Arc-et-Senans World Heritage property, in March 2008, financed by the France-UNESCO Convention. The focus of the meeting was planning and site financing issues;
- ii. A meeting, held in Switzerland at the Swiss Alps Jungfrau-Aletsch World Heritage property, in October 2008, financed by the Swiss National Commission and the Ministry of Environment. The meeting theme was on enhancing site and tourism industry relations;
- iii. A meeting, organized by US Parks Service at Yellowstone National Park World Heritage property in the United States in May 2008. The meeting addressed “Alternative Models of Visitor Management at World Heritage properties and other Protected Areas”, which have contributed to the Initiative’s policy and capacity development approaches;
- iv. A workshop, held in India in Madikeri (Coorg District of Karnataka State), in April 2009, sponsored by the State Government of Karnataka, India and The United Kingdom’s Department for Culture, Media and Sport. This workshop addressed issues related to communities, livelihoods and tourism. It also brought together the results and conclusions of the previous meetings, and identified the agreed priorities for the further work of the partnership.

VI. Next steps

12. The State Party of Australia is organizing, with the Chinese authorities, an expert meeting at the Mogao Caves World Heritage property in China for September 2009. It will **bring together many key stakeholders, to further review** and develop the results of the workshops mentioned above.

13. Based on the work above, it is proposed to report on the outcomes of the Initiative at the 34th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2010, for its consideration and recommendation for implementation.