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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Thirty-fourth session

Brasilia, Brazil
25 July – 3 August 2010

Item 10C of the Provisional Agenda: Progress Report on the first cycle of the Periodic Reporting and launching of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting in Asia and the Pacific

SUMMARY

This document summarises the progress made in the implementation of the two regional programmes in the Asia and the Pacific region: Action-Asia 2003-2009 and the World Heritage – Pacific 2009. A new Action Plan for the Pacific sub-region, covering the period 2010-2015, is presented at the following web address <http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/609/>. Finally, the Document provides information on the proposed strategy for the implementation of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting in Asia and the Pacific region.

Draft Decision: 34 COM 10.C, see Point III

I. Follow up on the first cycle of Periodic Reporting

Part I – Asia

A. Background

1. Following the results of the first cycle of Periodic Reporting for Asia and the Pacific region in 2003, the Action-Asia 2003-2009 Programme was developed to assist the States Parties of Asia to strengthen the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* and to enhance the conservation process at World Heritage properties in the region, particularly those inscribed prior to 1994. The World Heritage Committee approved this regional programme at its 27th session (UNESCO, July 2003).
2. A series of prioritized Action Plans were developed by the States Parties of Asia during various sub-regional workshops for the follow-up of the first cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise in 2003 (Pakistan, April 2005; Kazakhstan, November 2005 and Malaysia, December 2005), to facilitate the implementation of Action-Asia 2003-2009 for West and South Asia, Central Asia, Northeast and Southeast Asia. These Action Plans have been endorsed by the World Heritage Committee at its 30th session (Vilnius, 2006). Each Action Plan contains a list of activities to be implemented by 2009 and is available at the following Web addresses:

West and South Asia: <http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/events/documents/event-120-1.pdf>

Central Asia cultural: <http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/pages/documents/document-287-3.pdf>

Central Asia natural: <http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/pages/documents/document-287-4.pdf>

East and Southeast

Asia: <http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/events/documents/event-251-2.pdf>

B. Progress in the Asia region

3. With regard to “Credibility”, forty-three properties from the Asia region have been inscribed on the World Heritage List between 2003 and 2009, including properties belonging to under-represented categories such as cultural landscapes, steppes and sites from Central Asia. The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia have had their first sites inscribed on the World Heritage List. Meanwhile, ten new nominations to the World Heritage List from the Asia sub-region have been received in 2009 and thirteen in 2010. Eleven of these had received support from the World Heritage Centre through preparatory assistance and/or extra-budgetary funds.
4. Furthermore, three major serial and trans-national nomination initiatives have been pursued by States Parties in Asia, with support from the World Heritage Centre. These include: a) the Silk Roads (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and China), which has progressed through the development of a concept paper, the preparation and harmonisation of national Tentative Lists and the establishment of a coordinating mechanism; b) the Rock

Art of Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan), which has progressed through the development of a Draft Concept Paper and the commissioning of a thematic study (on-going); and c) the Altai Mountains (China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia and the Russian Federation), which has progressed through the establishment of the 'Altai Group', a coordination mechanism to further discuss trans-boundary cooperation. All these initiatives have benefited from support under the Netherlands Funds-In-Trust, Italian Funds-In-Trust, Norwegian Funds-In-Trust as well as from the World Heritage Fund, and are the first trans-boundary proposals in Asia. The initiative concerning the Silk Roads is open to other States Parties from the Asian region and beyond, with a view to potential future cooperation for the nomination process. Indeed, representatives from many countries, including Japan, Republic of Korea, India, Nepal, Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic), Pakistan, Azerbaijan, Italy etc. were invited and participated in the related workshops.

5. In terms of "Conservation", a large number of projects within the Asia region have been undertaken mostly through funding provided by extra-budgetary resources. Projects carried out include: a) Research and preservation activities for the safeguarding of the Buddhist Monastery in Ajina Tepa (Tajikistan) – Japan Funds-in-Trust; b) Technical cooperation project to improve the state of conservation of the Borobudur Temple Compound (Indonesia) – Netherlands Funds-in-Trust; c) Scientific analyses, provision of site security and demining activities undertaken within the framework of a project to ensure the long term stability of the Giant Buddha niches at the Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan) – Japan Funds-in-Trust; d) Conservation work on the mural paintings at the Koguryo Tombs and mural paintings (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) – Korea Funds-in-Trust; e) Development of technical recommendations by an expert working group for ongoing conservation of the Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam (Afghanistan) – Italian and Swiss Funds-in-Trust; f) Third phase of conservation work on the Bayon Temple at Angkor (Cambodia) – Japan Funds-in-Trust; and g) Second phase of conservation work at My Son Sanctuary (Viet Nam) – Italy Funds-in-Trust.
6. Other conservation and reconstruction projects were carried out for Mount Qincheng and Dujiangyan Irrigation System (China), Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries (China), Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia), Prambanan Temple Compounds (Indonesia), and Bam and its Cultural Landscape (Islamic Republic of Iran), all through Emergency Assistance under the World Heritage Fund, and other extra-budgetary funding. Several advisory missions were organised, thanks to the funding from the Italian Funds-in-Trust, which included a mission to the World Heritage property of Bisotun (Islamic Republic of Iran) to advise on methods for conservation and monitoring of stone-carved inscriptions threatened by water, and a mission to the Orkhon Valley Cultural Landscape (Mongolia) to advise on the reconstruction of the Tsogchin Temple at the property.
7. With respect to "Capacity-Building", the UNESCO General Conference approved at its 34th session in October 2007 the establishment of a World Heritage Institute for Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region' (WHITR-AP) in China, as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO. The first meeting of the Governing Board of this Institute took place from 23 to 24 July 2008 in Beijing. WHITR-AP has since organized the first International Training Course on Management Planning for Cultural Heritage at Tongji University of

Shanghai, China (November – December 2008). It also organized an International Forum on World Heritage Protection in Suzhou, China (December 2008) and the Regional Capacity-building Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change at Cultural and Natural Heritage Properties in Asia and the Pacific (December 2009). Between September 2009 and June 2010, WHITR-AP offered a one-year Advanced Course (Certificate and Diploma degrees) in World Heritage Conservation and Management at Peking University, China.

8. Several regional, sub-regional and national workshops have been delivered across the Asian region, which have contributed directly to capacity building, in particular on issues related to sustainable tourism management at World Heritage properties. This also resulted in translation of the World Heritage Centre's training material on Tourism Management into Chinese, Khmer, Laotian and Thai. Other training activities were organized to strengthen the management capacity of World Heritage site managers in South Asia, Central Asia and Northeast Asia.
9. In terms of communication and information sharing, the World Heritage Centre produced and distributed the summaries of the national reports submitted in the first cycle. Furthermore, a publication entitled the "State of World Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region, 2003" was produced and distributed to all the States Parties in Asia and the Pacific in English (June 2004) and French (November). The World Heritage Centre also disseminated information gathered during the first cycle of the Periodic Report on a website which is available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/287/>

Part II – The Pacific

A. Background

10. The Pacific continues to be one of the most under-represented regions on the World Heritage List. To redress this situation, a World Heritage - Pacific 2009 Programme was developed in 2003, following the results of the first cycle of Periodic Reporting for the Asia-Pacific region. An Action Plan to implement Pacific 2009 was developed by representatives of all Pacific countries and concerned institutions at a workshop in Tongariro, New Zealand in October 2004. The Action Plan was endorsed by the World Heritage Committee at its 7th Extraordinary session (UNESCO, 2004).

B. Progress made in the Pacific region

Regional Workshop in Maupiti (French Polynesia) and Action Plan 2010-2015

11. An exhaustive report on the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan Pacific 2009 was provided to the Committee at its 31st Session in New Zealand (Christchurch, 2007). In 2009, a Pacific Islands World Heritage Workshop was held in Maupiti (French Polynesia) from 2 to 7 November 2009. The Workshop gathered representatives from almost all the States Parties and Territories of the Pacific and benefited from the financial support of Australia, France, French Polynesian institutions as well as the Oceania Football Association. The objectives of the Workshop were (1) to develop the Pacific World Heritage Action Plan 2010-2015; (2) to build capacity among States Parties in implementing the *World Heritage Convention* especially in preparing nominations; (3) to introduce the second cycle of Periodic Reporting; (4) to

strengthen coordination and share information among States Parties; and (5) to review a draft feasibility study for the establishment of sustainable financing mechanism for World Heritage in the Pacific.

12. The Workshop resulted in a Pacific World Heritage Action Plan, proposing activities at regional and national level. These follow up and build on the achievements of the Action Plan Pacific 2009, focusing on consolidating the capacities built over the past years and moving forward with nominations of potential properties. Of particular interest is the proposal to carry out a set of activities aimed at developing a regional network, or facility, to provide training on World Heritage to Pacific States Parties. This will benefit from support in the framework of the Funds-in-Trust established by Australia with UNESCO (see below). The Action Plan 2010-2015 is accessible online from <http://whc.unesco.org/en/evenements/609/>.
13. In the spirit of and building on the Pacific Appeal adopted in Tongariro in 2007, the participants in the Maupiti Workshop also adopted a Declaration (known as the *Maupiti Ocean Declaration*), which emphasizes the profound cultural links among all the peoples of the Pacific beyond the 'artificial boundaries' of the current geopolitical system, and their relationship with their unique environment. This Declaration, which is accessible online from <http://whc.unesco.org/en/evenements/609/>, draws attention to the threats to the natural and cultural heritage of the Pacific, both tangible and intangible, from challenges such as climate change and some negative effects of the globalization of economic and social exchanges, and to the importance of international support to ensure its conservation.

Establishment of sustainable financing mechanism for World Heritage in the Pacific

14. With regard to the feasibility study for the establishment of sustainable financing mechanism for World Heritage in the Pacific, a draft was presented to the States Parties at the Maupiti Workshop. To facilitate the discussion of the study, interested States Parties were invited to form a working group on the sidelines of the main meeting. The consultants took note of suggestions and recommendations made and provided a revised final report of the feasibility study.
15. The final report recommends the establishment of an initial sinking fund, capitalized through contributions from Pacific Island Countries (PICs) and major donor governments in the region, which could be administered through an international financial institution with comparative advantage in financial management. While financial responsibility would lie with the financial host institution, under this proposal the programmatic responsibility would lie with a board consisting of PIC States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention*; Bilateral and Multilateral donors active in the region; Regional multilateral organizations e.g. UNESCO and SPREP¹; the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies; as well as other nature and culture conservation groups as invited by the board. Contributions from PICs could be financed from site-based user fees, tourist departure levy, hotel bed tax, or other revenue generating mechanisms. After an initial pilot stage (5 years), the trust could evolve into an endowment to support management costs associated with Pacific heritage issues, and to provide sustained inputs to World Heritage support for the Pacific Island Countries.

¹ SPREP is the South Pacific Regional Environment Program

16. The UNESCO Apia Office and the World Heritage Centre will facilitate further technical consultations on the recommendations of the feasibility study. In the end of June 2010, the Apia Office proposes to host a technical experts' meeting, including members of the technical working group formed by States Parties in Maupiti. Participants will be discussing practical steps to implement recommendations made in the study, as well as potential functional linkages between the proposed funding mechanism, the above-mentioned regional heritage conservation capacity-building mechanism, and the possible development of an online platform (hub) for heritage in the region acting as a knowledge management tool supporting conservation. The recommendations of the meeting will be shared with States Parties for comments.

Other developments

17. Other notable developments in the way of strengthening support for World Heritage in the Pacific include the establishments of the Australian Funds-in-Trust with UNESCO, in August 2008, aiming to support World Heritage-related activities in Asia and the Pacific region, with a particular priority in projects in the Pacific region, some of which contribute to the needs identified in the Action Plan. It should also be noted that two Programme Specialists for culture and natural sciences have been appointed in the Apia Office.

18. Finally, a trans-boundary nomination dossier of the Yapese Stone Money Sites in Palau and Yap was submitted by Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia, and it was considered to be complete by the technical check done by the World Heritage Centre. This is the first trans-boundary nomination from the Pacific and in all of Asia, for that matter.

19. On 28 May 2010, the World Heritage Centre received a petition concerning "Objections and Claims of NaKoa Ikaika KaLahui Hawaii and The Koani Foundation to the Nomination of the Northwest Hawaiian Islands Marine Monument (NWHI) to the UNESCO World Heritage List & to the UNESCO/WHC Pacific Action Plan". Among other things, the petitioners "object to the UNESCO/WHC Pacific Action Plan and to the UNESCO/WHC processes and procedures that have excluded the indigenous peoples of the Pacific from meaningful participation in the Plan, and subjected their lands, territories and resources to increased State and international control". This document was transmitted to the Advisory Bodies for information.

II. Preparation of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting

A. Background

20. Article 29 of the *World Heritage Convention* stipulates that Periodic reporting on the implementation of the *Convention* is a procedure by which States Parties, through the intermediary of the World Heritage Committee, transmit to UNESCO General Conference the status of the implementation of the *Convention* in their respective territories. In this framework, and following the approval of the World Heritage Committee, the second cycle of Periodic Reporting in Asia and the Pacific region will be launched immediately following the 34th session of the World Heritage Committee. The result of this exercise is to be submitted to the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session in 2012.

21. Moreover, in **Decision 32 COM 11E**, the World Heritage Committee requests “all States Parties, in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, to finalize all missing Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for properties in their territory as soon as possible, and to do so before the beginning of the second Cycle of Periodic Reporting for the relevant Region”. Out of the total of 186 World Heritage properties in Asia and the Pacific region (as of April 2010), 20 have Statements of Outstanding Universal Value, 1 has a Statement of Significance, 57 have justification for the criteria, and 108 have neither justification nor Statement adopted at the time of inscription. Therefore, 166 retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value need to be prepared and adopted by the Committee.
22. In parallel, the Retrospective Inventory of Nomination files of Asian and Pacific properties inscribed on the World Heritage List between 1978 and 1998 has been started. The Retrospective Inventory is a project, launched in 2004 (**Decision 7 EXT COM 7.1**), aiming at identifying and filling gaps and omissions in the Nomination files of early inscribed World Heritage properties, in cooperation with the States Parties concerned. At the end of 2010, States Parties in the region will be contacted by the World Heritage Centre with the request to submit appropriate cartographic and geographic information for properties inscribed on the World Heritage List between 1978 and 1998.

B. Preparation of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting

23. In order to comply with the request made by the World Heritage Committee to States Parties to finalise all missing Statements of Outstanding Universal Value as well as to prepare for the Periodic Reporting, three sub-regional Workshops - one for the Pacific (2-7 November 2009, Maupiti, French Polynesia), one for East and Southeast Asia (19-23 April 2010, Taiyuan, China) and the other for West, Central and South Asia (2-5 June 2010, Dehradun, India) - took place or are planned with funding from the World Heritage Fund and thanks to generous contributions by French Polynesia, Australia, China, India, and the Republic of Korea.
24. The objectives of the Workshops, which will bring together national focal points from 41 States Parties, international resource persons, Advisory Bodies (ICOMOS, IUCN, ICCROM) and staff from the UNESCO World Heritage Centre as well as the Field Offices in the region, are (a) to explain the process and new format of the Periodic Reporting; (b) to provide guidance to States Parties on drafting of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value for properties in the region; and (c) to promote regional cooperation through exchange of information and experience in Periodic Reporting and its follow-up. The Workshops comprise theoretical presentations, drafting exercise, group discussions and presentations.
25. Following the Workshops in three sub-regions (the Pacific, East and Southeast Asia, West, Central and South Asia), a series of follow-up activities at national and sub-regional level will be conducted by UNESCO Field Offices in the region in cooperation with States Parties and with the support of ‘mentors’ based in the region. The modalities of follow-up actions are, at the time of drafting of this document, still under discussion, in order to tailor them to specificities of each State Party and sub-region.

26. Finalising all missing Statements of Outstanding Universal Value before the beginning of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting, as requested by **Decision 32 COM 11E**, has not been achieved. Considering a large number of properties without a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value, it would be more realistic to aim at submitting them together with the result of Periodic Reporting to the World Heritage Committee in 2012.
27. Following the launching of Periodic Reporting in Asia and the Pacific region by the World Heritage Committee, the following activities are foreseen according to the timetable below:
- February 2011: Submission of draft retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value by the States Parties
 - July 2011: Submission of questionnaires (Sections I and II) of Periodic Reporting completed by focal points and site managers.
 - September-October 2011: Preliminary analysis of the results.
 - November 2011: Final sub-regional meetings in Asia and the Pacific to take stock of results, identify needs, challenges and opportunities and define common approach at regional level.
 - December 2011: Submission of information for Retrospective Inventory
 - December 2011 to April 2012: Elaboration of the outcome document on Periodic Reporting.
 - July 2012: Presentation of the results to the World Heritage Committee for its examination at its 36th session.
28. It should also be stressed that the budget and human resources available to UNESCO to assist in the implementation of this huge exercise are very limited. For this biennium, the Asia and the Pacific region has 85,000 USD from the UNESCO regular programme budget, 150,000 USD from the follow-up of the first cycle of Periodic Reporting and 200,000 USD from the budget for the second cycle of Periodic Reporting under the World Heritage Fund. These resources are unfortunately inadequate to cope with the exceptional load of work generated by this process, involving the treatment of a huge amount of data, daily communication with many States Parties and the organizations of numerous regional and national capacity-building meetings/missions and technical assistance activities. In order to begin the implementation of this statutory process, therefore, it has been indispensable to make recourse to the contribution of a number of generous States Parties and donors (see paragraph 21).

III. Draft Decision

Draft Decision 34 COM 10 C

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/10C,*
2. *Recalling decisions 31 COM 11D.1, 32 COM 11E, and 33 COM 11B, adopted respectively at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007), 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008), and 33rd session (Seville, 2009),*

3. Takes note of the progress achieved in the follow up to the first cycle of Periodic Reporting, as well as the results of activities in preparation for the launching of its second cycle, and in particular of the sub-regional Workshops organised in Maupiti (French Polynesia, France), Taiyuan (China), and Dehradun (India);
4. Decides to launch a second cycle of Periodic Reporting in Asia and the Pacific region and requests the States Parties of Asia and the Pacific region to actively participate in this process;
5. Also requests States Parties of Asia and the Pacific region to prepare all the missing retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value concerning properties located in their territory and to submit them to the World Heritage Centre **before 1 February 2011** for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session in 2012;
6. Requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory bodies to provide assistance to the States Parties in Asia and the Pacific region in the preparation of Periodic Reporting;
7. Further requests the World Heritage Centre to keep it informed of progress achieved in the Periodic Reporting exercise at its 35th session in **2011**.