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# World Heritage

# 35 COM

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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-fifth session

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters

19 – 29 June 2011

**Item 14 of the Provisional Agenda: Examination of International Assistance requests**

## SUMMARY

**Background:** This document contains under Part I the International Assistance requests received by the World Heritage Centre and which were originally for decision by the Committee and under Part II the status of implementation of the International Assistance request from Madagascar as requested by the Committee in Decision **34 COM 15.2**.

**Draft Decision:** **35 COM 14**, see Point III

I. **International Assistance requests originally submitted for decision by the World Heritage Committee**

1. A request from Romania entitled “Management courses for the Historic Centre of Sighisoara” for US\$ 51,540 was received by the Secretariat on 17 December 2010. It was reviewed by ICOMOS on 14 January 2011 and by ICCROM on 17 January 2011. The International Assistance panel held on 17 January 2011 recommended that this request be sent back to the State Party for reformulation in order to decide whether the scope of the request would be for management planning training for Sighisoara or training at country level. Moreover, the budget had to be revised substantially.

2. As a result, a revised request entitled “Management planning courses” for an amount of US\$ 25,100 was received by the Secretariat on 10 March 2011. Since the amount requested now falls within the approval authority of the Chairperson, the request from Romania is not submitted to the World Heritage Committee.

3. A request for US\$ 38,000 from The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, entitled “Promotion of the Natural and Cultural Heritage of Ohrid region through the Management Plan and the Law of the Ohrid Natural and Cultural Heritage Management, on the occasion of 30th Anniversary of the Ohrid region as a mixed property on the UNESCO World Heritage list” was received by the Secretariat on 1 February 2011. It was reviewed on 23 March 2011 by ICOMOS, which considered that as such, this activity seemed ineligible for any funding support under the criteria within the *Operational Guidelines*. It made further suggestions for a possible reformulation of the request. These comments were conveyed to the State Party on 6 April 2011.

4. As a result, a revised request for an amount of US\$ 28,350 entitled “Increasing the public awareness of significance of the natural and cultural heritage through promotion of the National Legislation prepared according to the UNESCO World Heritage Convention” was received by the Secretariat on 3 May 2011. Since the amount requested now falls within the approval authority of the Chairperson, the request from The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is not submitted to the World Heritage Committee.

II. **Status of implementation of the International Assistance request for Atsinanana Forests (Madagascar) approved in 2010 by the World Heritage Committee**

In accordance with Decision **34 COM 15.2** (Brasilia, August 2010), the World Heritage Committee approved an amount of USD 100,000 for “Madagascar: Rainforests of the Atsinanana”, under category “Conservation and Management”, according to 5 modalities. Paragraph 4 of this decision requested the Secretariat “to submit a report on the implementation of this Decision at the 35th session of the Committee in 2011, under the agenda item relating to International Assistance”.

The 5 modalities mentioned above were implemented as follows:

a) Prior payment of arrears to the World Heritage Fund

The arrears were settled on 29 November 2010, when Madagascar paid its contribution for 2009 and 2010.

b) The support should be channeled through reliable and recognized organizations selected by the World Heritage Centre in communication with relevant authorities

The World Heritage Centre carefully reviewed who could be the most appropriate partner through which the support should be channeled. It identified several potential partners with the technical capacity to undertake the requested studies. The World Heritage Centre further identified the Madagascar National Parks Foundation as the most appropriate partner to coordinate these activities. This private Foundation was created jointly by the Madagascar Government and the major conservation NGOs operating in the country with a specific goal to support the Madagascar protected areas. It has an independent board and is audited regularly; it is already managing important budgets for conservation activities in different protected areas from different donors. The Foundation has set up a Technical Committee for World Heritage, composed of representatives from the Ministry of Forests, the Madagascar National Parks, which is the site management authority, and WCS and WWF, the NGOs working at Masoala and Marojejy National Parks, in order to follow up the International Assistance activities.

On 12 December 2010, a letter was sent to the Permanent Delegation of Madagascar to UNESCO, requesting their agreement to the proposed solution. Following this request, the Ministry for Forests decided to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Madagascar National Parks Foundation to clarify its role in the implementation of the International Assistance request. This MoU was signed in March 2011.

c) Allocation of a first payment of US\$ 35,000 to cover mapping activities, inventories of threats, impact assessment and inventories of stocks of cut and remaining precious woods, and as foreseen in the request for assistance in Document WHC-10/34.COM/15. This assessment should be finalized prior to the organization of the World Heritage Centre / IUCN on-site monitoring mission (see Decision **34 COM 7B.2**)

Following the signature of the MoU, the World Heritage Centre prepared a contract with Madagascar National Parks Foundation for the implementation of the mapping activities, inventories of threats, impact assessment and inventories of stocks of cut and remaining precious woods. The list of studies and terms of reference were developed with the Foundation and its above-mentioned Technical Committee on World Heritage. At the time of preparation of this document, work on these studies has started and should be completed by mid-May. The reactive monitoring mission is scheduled to take place from 23 May to 1 June 2011.

d) Establishment of an Emergency Plan to define corrective measures, prepared jointly with the State Party and stakeholders during the World Heritage Centre/IUCN mission and approved by the State Party

The Emergency Plan will be discussed during the reactive monitoring mission to the site (see above). This Plan will be finalized based on the recommendations of the mission. An oral report on the results of the monitoring mission will be presented to the Committee in June 2011.

e) Allocation of a second payment of USD 65,000 as a contribution to the implementation of the Emergency Plan, subject to co-financing from the government and other donors.

This will be done as soon as the plan is finalized. So far the World Heritage Centre secured USD 50,000 as additional funding received from Bulgaria. In addition, during a side event at 10th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, held at Nagoya in October 2010, the Minister for Environment of Norway pledged USD 1,000,000 in support of the implementation of the plan. The World Heritage Centre is in contact with Norway on this proposal.

### III. Draft Decision

**Draft Decision: 35 COM 14**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having considered Document WHC-11/35.COM/14,*
2. *Takes note of the status of implementation of the International Assistance request for Atsinanana Forests (Madagascar) approved in 2010;*
3. *Requests the Secretariat to submit a report on the implementation of this request at the 36th session of the Committee in 2012, under the agenda item International Assistance.*