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# World Heritage

# 36 COM

**WHC-12/36.COM/10D**

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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-sixth session**

**Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation**

**24 June – 6 July 2012**

**Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda: Periodic Reports**

**10D. Follow-up of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for  
Africa Region**

## **SUMMARY**

This document presents the follow-up activities to the Periodic Report for the Africa region in accordance with Decision **35 COM 10A** (UNESCO, 2011). It highlights the activities that have taken place since the completion of the second Periodic Reporting in the Africa Region. It presents an overview of the regional Action Plan which forms the foundation for the implementation of the recommendations of the States Parties, following the results of the Periodic Report. It also presents other World Heritage initiatives that complement the achievement of the set objectives of the Action Plan. Finally, it provides information on the special activities to be held in the Africa Region as part of the commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Convention.

Other related documents: Action Plan, 2012-2017, for the Africa Region: (Document WHC-12/36.COM/INF.10D).

**Draft Decision: 36 COM 10D**, See Point IV.

## **I. FOLLOW UP TO THE PERIODIC REPORTING EXERCISE IN THE AFRICA REGION**

### **A. Background**

1. The World Heritage Committee launched the second cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Africa Region at its 33rd session (Seville, 2009). The exercise was implemented between 2009 and 2011. At its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010), the World Heritage Committee noted the progress of the exercise and encouraged States Parties to fully participate in ensuring its success (WHC-10/34.COM/10B).
2. The second Periodic Reporting exercise was implemented with the full support of the 45 States Parties, through their designated representatives. The exercise was facilitated through an effective network managed by a regional coordinator, 4 sub-regional mentors, national focal persons and site managers. Several meetings were held in Dakar (Senegal), Nairobi (Kenya), Yaoundé (Cameroon), Windhoek (Namibia), and Vredefort Dome (South Africa).
3. The final results were presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011). The Committee expressed its appreciation of the successful implementation of the Periodic Reporting exercise and encouraged the publication of the synthesis report to ensure its wide dissemination in the Region, while calling on the international community to support the publication effort.
4. In its Decision **35 COM 10A**, the Committee particularly noted the conflicting interests of conservation and development needs in the Region and requested the World Heritage Centre to organise, in partnership with the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), a special meeting on the management of development activities and resource extraction in and around World Heritage properties in the Africa Region.
5. The Committee further requested that an Action Plan, as well as the Regional Programme modules, Africa Nature and Africa 2020, be presented to the 36th session of the Committee in 2012.

### **B. Follow up actions to the second cycle of Periodic Reporting in Africa**

#### **B.1. Regional Action Plan 2012-2017**

6. With the support of the Government of Denmark and the AWHF, the World Heritage Centre organised an expert meeting (Paris, 18-20 April 2012) to finalise a Regional Action Plan, which will constitute the foundation of the coming years up to the next Periodic Reporting. The aim of the meeting was to consider the sub-regional needs and the required actions and synthesise these into a regional Action Plan with associated budget estimates for the implementation strategy and each ensuing action. The meeting had originally been planned to include all the national focal points and the site managers but was down scaled due to budgetary concerns following the recent financial challenges at UNESCO. Experts at the meeting were the periodic reporting regional coordinator and sub-regional mentors, regional training institutions (Centre for Heritage Development in Africa (CHDA) and School for African Heritage (Ecole du patrimoine Africain, EPA), the AWHF, the Nordic World Heritage Foundation (NWHF) and the three Advisory Bodies (IUCN, ICOMOS, ICCROM).
7. The Regional Action Plan sets the operational framework for the regional capacity building programme and is presented in WHC-12/36.COM/INF.10D.

## **B.2. Regional Capacity Building Programme**

8. Initial efforts have been carried out to develop the basic foundation regarding the regional programme taking into account previous existing issues identified from the first cycle, as well as the capacity building needs highlighted by the second cycle of Periodic Reporting exercise. The proposed Regional Programme is conceived in two modules specifically to address issues at both cultural and/or natural sites. A preparatory phase for the implementation of the Regional Action Plan, which will consist of developing pedagogical material on priority issues of the second Periodic Reporting in Africa, has already started thanks to the Emergency Funds made available by the Director-General of UNESCO.

### **B.2.1. Regional Programme (Module 1) for natural heritage: Africa Nature**

9. From 30 November – 1 December 2011, the World Heritage Centre organised, in Paris, a two-day design workshop to develop the overall framework of the Africa Nature Programme. The Government of the Netherlands generously supported the meeting. The meeting brought together 14 nature experts from five Africa Region States Parties, IUCN, AWHF, GEF/UNDP and WHC.
10. The aim of the meeting was to consolidate on the achievements of the past efforts under the first Periodic Reporting cycle, to update on it through the development of a full-fledged programme for African Natural and Mixed World Heritage sites. The meeting developed a draft framework for the programme, one that maintains the overall objective of improving the effective management of natural World Heritage properties in the Region. The Africa Nature programme comprises several projects and initiatives to be carried out over a period of six years, up to the next periodic reporting exercise.
11. One of the outcomes of the Paris meeting was the adoption of a programme strategy that focuses on a 24-month start-up phase (2012-2014) for which a project document was prepared. Its overall objective is to improve the management effectiveness of the natural World Heritage properties in Africa through targeted capacity building and knowledge sharing. Implementation will be through workshops, training courses and pilot projects. It is expected that at the end of 2014, a firm foundation would have been laid for consolidation of the Africa Nature programme.
12. Co-financing has been secured for the start-up phase of Africa Nature through the Flanders Government and IUCN.

### **B.2.2. Regional Programme (Module 2) for cultural heritage: Africa 2020**

13. The technical partners, World Heritage Centre, AWHF, ICCROM, CHDA and EPA, have started developing an integrated programme that will incorporate all the issues raised in the Regional Action Plan 2012-2017. The final programme document could not be ready due to financial constraints, and will therefore be presented to the Committee for validation at its 37th session in 2013.
14. In the meantime, the AWHF, in partnership with the NWHF and the World Heritage Centre, has submitted a project proposal to the Government of Norway. The project is strategically conceived as the first phase of the Africa 2020 programme. Implementation partners will include ICCROM and the two African regional training institutions, CHDA and EPA. The project will conduct workshops on risk assessment, direct community benefits as well as practical training on site management and conservation. It will also implement field projects that will feed into research on World Heritage and development issues.

### **B.3. Meeting on World Heritage and the impacts of development activities**

15. With the support of the Government of South Africa, the World Heritage Centre and the AWHF organised an interdisciplinary regional expert workshop, from 23-25 May 2012, in Johannesburg (South Africa). Experts from the fields of Developmental studies, Resource extraction, Heritage management and Politicians participated at the meeting. A situational analysis of the impacts of development activities and resource extraction at the World Heritage properties was presented and discussed at the meeting. The meeting recommended some sustainable solutions for the future of World Heritage and its local communities in Africa.

## **II. COMPLEMENTARY INITIATIVES**

16. The Small Island Developing States Programme, SIDS, coordinates and develops World Heritage activities on islands of the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans. Africa Region States Parties also benefit from its activities which respond to the peculiar situation of their geographical situation. In 2011, a strategy for African SIDS was developed to include the identification of the specific needs of each of the island states, as well as the requirements and challenges already recognised at the regional level through the African Periodic Reporting exercise.
17. The Central African World Heritage Forest Initiative (CAWHFI) project aims at improving the management of protected areas, including non-World Heritage sites, of the Congo Basin that could be recognized as having Outstanding Universal Value and to improve their integration in the ecological landscape encompassing them. The project supported the preparation of the nomination dossier of the Trinational Sangha which was deferred at the 35th session of the Committee. Since the deferment, the recommendations of the Committee have been implemented and a new nomination was submitted in February 2012, for examination at the 37th session of the Committee.
18. Within the framework of the World Heritage Marine programme, to establish the effective conservation of existing and potential marine areas of Outstanding Universal Value, in 2011, a comparative regional assessment strategy was put in place to focus on eight African Region States Parties in the Indian Ocean with a view to improving the representation of African marine sites on the World Heritage List.
19. The Biodiversity Conservation in Regions of Armed Conflict: Protecting World Heritage in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) project is specially aimed at the effective protection of the World Heritage properties in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The 3rd phase aims at the implementation of the management plans and emergency action plans in Kahuzi Biega National Park, Virunga National Park and the Okapi Faunal Reserve. The World Heritage Centre is providing the necessary support to the sites to ensure the implementation of the corrective measures, as adopted by the World Heritage Committee at previous sessions, in order to restore the integrity of the five World Heritage properties and ensure the long term conservation of their Outstanding Universal Values for which they were designated as World Heritage. The World Heritage Centre also provides support to the *Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature* (ICCN- the Management Authority for the Protected Areas in DRC) to implement its action plan 2011-2015 and the Kinshasa Declaration, signed in January 2011.
20. Within the framework of the Global Strategy for a Representative, Balanced and Credible World Heritage List, the AWHF continues to support States Parties through its training programme for the nomination dossier preparation. The World Heritage Centre will support the 2012 training courses in the framework of "1972 Convention - Capacity building programme in Africa" funded by UNESCO Emergency Fund. The AWHF

training programme also makes specific provision to meet the needs of the Portuguese-speaking States Parties so that they can fully implement the *World Heritage Convention*.

### **III. CELEBRATION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONVENTION IN THE AFRICA REGION**

#### **A. Interregional conference: “Living with World Heritage”**

21. The State Party of Norway hosted an interregional, Europe-Africa, conference in Røros, 14-16 May 2012, to address the role of local communities in sustainably developing World Heritage sites. It addressed the issues that communities living in and around World Heritage sites have to deal with on a daily basis. The results of the conference will be presented at the international conference to be held in South Africa in September 2012.

#### **B. International conference on World Heritage and Sustainable Development**

22. As part of activities to mark the 40th anniversary of the *World Heritage Convention*, the Government of South Africa will host an international conference on World Heritage and sustainable development from 26-29 September 2012. The conference will be jointly organised with the AWHF and the World Heritage Centre. Participants from Africa and the international community, representing African States Parties, Heritage site managers, World Heritage and Resource extraction experts and Local and National authorities, are expected to attend the meeting. The results of the situational analysis and the expert meeting will be presented. It is also expected that a position paper on World Heritage will be adopted.

#### **C. Special Publication on World Heritage in Africa**

23. The World Heritage Centre is currently preparing, with the generous support of the Government of Switzerland, a bilingual (English-French) publication on World Heritage in the Africa region. The publication will give a general overview of the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* in each State Party as well as details of the properties within individual territories. Up-to-date research information on the sites will be presented, as well as a bibliography of existing literature on the properties, where available. The publication will be launched at the September 2012 meeting on World Heritage and sustainable development to be held in South Africa.

### **IV. DRAFT DECISION**

#### **Draft Decision: 36 COM 10D**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Documents WHC-12/36.COM/10D and WHC-12/36.COM/INF.10D,
2. Recalling Decision 35 COM 10A, adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),
3. Welcomes the progress made in the follow-up of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Africa Region;

4. Takes note of the results of the meeting on development activities and resource extraction in and around World Heritage properties in Africa;
5. Thanks the State Party of South Africa for its offer to host the special 40th anniversary conference on World Heritage and sustainable development;
6. Welcomes the publication initiative on World Heritage in the Africa Region and thanks the State Party of Switzerland for its financial support and encourages its effective implementation;
7. Endorses the Regional Action Plan 2012-2017, and its Regional Capacity Building Programme, prepared by the States Parties and also thanks the Director-General of UNESCO for her support to the preparatory phase;
8. Further thanks the States Parties of Belgium (in particular the Government of Flanders), Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, and Switzerland, as well as IUCN, African World Heritage Fund and the Nordic World Heritage Foundation for their committed support to the implementation of the Action Plan 2012-2017 and in particular the follow-up programmes of the second Periodic Reporting for the Africa Region;
9. Calls upon States Parties to support the implementation of the Action Plan 2012-2017 and also encourages them to intensify their contributions to the African World Heritage Fund while working closely with the Fund to improve on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the region;
10. Requests the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, and with the support of interested States Parties to continue its efforts to coordinate and implement the Regional Capacity Building Programme as per the Action Plan 2012-2017;
11. Also requests the World Heritage Centre to publish the synthesis report of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting, for wider dissemination and to keep it informed of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Action Plan at its 37th session in 2013.