



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

World Heritage

36 COM

WHC-12/36.COM/12C

Paris, 1 June 2012

Original: English / French

**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 12 of the Provisional Agenda: Reflection on the Future of the *World Heritage Convention*

12C. Progress report on the reflection concerning the upstream processes

SUMMARY

At its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008), the World Heritage Committee decided to initiate a process of reflection on the future of the *World Heritage Convention*.

In this framework, the Committee, recognising the challenges that exist in the process for nominating a property to the World Heritage List, proposed an in-depth reflection on the Upstream Process. The aim of this reflection was to find options for improving and strengthening the current nomination process. In 2011, the Committee through Decision **35 COM 12C** took note of the selection of 10 pilot projects to explore creative approaches and new forms of guidance that might be provided to States Parties in considering nominations before their preparation.

The present document focuses on the progress made on each of the 10 pilot projects since the 35th session of the World Heritage Committee to implement Decision **35 COM 12C**.

Draft Decision: 36 COM 12C, see Point III

I BACKGROUND

1. At its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010), the World Heritage Committee, in part III of Decision **34 COM 12**, encouraged the World Heritage Centre to “*follow up on the approaches and recommendations of the Phuket expert meeting*” on ‘Upstream processes for Nominations’. In particular, the Committee requested the World Heritage Centre “*in cooperation with the Advisory Bodies and other relevant organizations, to invite one or two States Parties from each of the UNESCO regional groups to undertake, on an experimental basis, voluntary pilot projects related to identifying options and preparing dossiers for nomination*”.
2. Following the selection by the UNESCO Regional Groups of 2 pilot projects for each region (except for Electoral Group I -Western Europe and North America- which refrained from making any proposal), at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011), the World Heritage Committee, as part of Decision 35 COM 12C, welcoming “all the actions undertaken to improve the processes and practices prior to consideration by the World Heritage Committee of a nomination (the ‘upstream processes’)”, took note “of the pilot projects that have been chosen to implement this experimental approach”. The Committee also took note of a phased feasibility study for each one of the 10 pilot projects.
3. In order to implement phase I of the pilot projects, each State Party concerned was asked to select a focal point for the project and to identify options to cover the costs to undertake the necessary actions. These costs could be met through a variety of ways: the State Party itself could bear the whole or part of the costs; it could raise the required funds from donors or other funding agencies; or it could put forward a Preparatory Assistance request under the World Heritage Fund. This document details project by project the progress made since the last session of the World Heritage Committee.
4. It is important to emphasize that the inclusion of a project for this experimental approach does not imply that the sites concerned would necessarily be inscribed on the World Heritage List. The main aim of the experimental Upstream Process is to reduce the number of properties that experience significant problems during the nomination process. Therefore, the objective of the pilot projects is to explore creative approaches and new forms of guidance that might be provided to State Parties in considering nominations before their preparation, as well as in relation to the nomination process.

II PROGRESS MADE ON THE SELECTED PILOT PROJECTS

5. Pilot Project on the **South Namib Erg**, Namibia
Support on the preparation of this nomination was provided by IUCN and WHC at the end of August 2011. A draft version of the nomination was analysed and commented by IUCN and WHC two months later. The official nomination of the ‘Namib Sand Sea’ was finally submitted under criteria (vii)(viii)(ix) and (x) on 1 February 2012. Considered as complete, this nomination is for review by the Committee at its 37th session, in 2013. Therefore, this pilot project will be the first one out of the ten selected to be officially evaluated and examined by the Committee.
6. Pilot Project on **Kano City Walls**, Nigeria
The nomination of Kano City Walls was among those ones included in the World Heritage Nominations Training Programme for African sub-Saharan States Parties held in Namibia in August 2011. In this context, given the limited time available, an in-dept support was not possible. The chance of providing assistance for this project is at the moment not progressing due to lack of funds to enable the Advisory Body’s intervention. Therefore,

no direct contact between the State Party and the relevant Advisory Body occurred on this project so far.

7. Pilot Project on **Pella (Tabaqat Fahil)**, Jordan
The World Heritage Centre addressed two letters (on 27 July 2011 and a reminder on 5 March 2012) to ask for the identification of a focal point and for the identification of financial support to enable the undertaking of first phase of upstream support by the relevant Advisory Body and WHC. Jordan provided the name of its focal point, but did not indicated a possible source of funding for the follow-up. No direct contact between the State Party and the relevant Advisory Body occurred on this project so far.
8. Pilot Project on the **Rock Drawings in the region of Hail**, Saudi Arabia
As for the other pilot project selected in the same region, following two letters sent by WHC, Saudi Arabia provided the name of a focal point, but did not indicated a possible source of funding to undertake the first phase of upstream support. No direct contact between the State Party and the relevant Advisory Body occurred on this project so far.
9. Pilot Project on the **Batanes Protected Landscapes and Seascapes**, Philippines
The Advisory Bodies requested the State Party to submit all the latest documentation and work carried out concerning this nomination since the last recommendations made by the World Heritage Committee in 2007 in order to carry out a comprehensive desk study. On 10 April 2012, the State Party submitted on behalf of the Batanes Province, a document which summarizes the assessment and developments with regard to the nomination of the Batanes Protected Landscapes and Seascapes. The Korean Funds-in-Trust is supporting the project and a mission of one natural expert and one cultural expert is being proposed to further assist the Batanes authorities, among others, with the identification of the area to be nominated. In addition, funding will be provided to the State Party to assist with the preparation of the nomination.
10. Pilot Project on **Male Hukuru Miskiy**, Maldives
The Government of Maldives has submitted an International Assistance Request of US\$ 17,750 for the implementation of phase I of this pilot project and the preparation of the related nomination dossier. This International Assistance Request was approved on 30 June 2011 and a preliminary field survey of 21 coral stone mosques was undertaken by the State Party. Currently, WHC is also applying the UNESCO Korean FIT framework to identify more funding for this pilot project. However, no direct contact between the State Party and the relevant Advisory Body occurred on this project so far.
11. Pilot Project on the **Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region**, Albania and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
An International Assistance request was approved to support the upstream project which was used for organizing the mission in April 2012 as well as a stakeholder training workshop with the participation of the authorities of Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, representatives of ICOMOS International, IUCN and the World Heritage Centre. The outcomes of the mission have been shared with the States Parties. An outline of a second phase of the upstream project was elaborated; its funding is currently being discussed with the European Commission.
12. Pilot Project on the **Dinaric Karst Serial Nomination**, Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro
Following the first meeting concerning this project that was held in Slovenia in July 2011, two coordination meetings were held at the World Heritage Centre in November 2011 and February 2012. The 2nd Dinaric Karst Upstream Meeting on 22 May 2012 at the Skocjan Park in Slovenia, marked important developments in terms of the States Parties involved in this project (Italy and Serbia confirmed their interest in joining the project of

serial nomination) as well as in terms of category of the site (the potential OUV has been identified just under natural criteria). The representatives of the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and IUCN attended the meeting providing training on the preparation of a serial transnational nomination and advice to support a viable follow-up of this project. The States Parties are now working towards their harmonized Tentative List submissions in view of their next meeting planned in mid-October 2012.

13. Pilot Project on the **Grenadine Island Group**, Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

An International Assistance request was approved to start this project that is being undertaken jointly by the States Parties of Grenada and St Vincent and the Grenadines. To date, both States Parties have been finalizing efforts to harmonize the information relating to this transboundary site on their respective Tentative Lists. Coordination continues between the Advisory Bodies (IUCN and ICOMOS), the States Parties and WHC in view of an expert mission that will be undertaken in June 2012 to start implementing phase I of the project.

14. Pilot Project on the **Cultural and Industrial Landscape of Fray Bentos**, Uruguay

A focal point has been named by the State Party and an International Assistance request is waiting for approval pending further information to be provided by the State Party. Dialogue should be established between ICOMOS and the State Party for the identification of a suitable expert to undertake the mission. No date has therefore been established for the implementation of Phase I of the project. The State Party has prepared already a very comprehensive plan to prepare the nomination dossier.

III DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision: 36 COM 12C

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/12C,*
2. *Recalling Decision **34 COM 12.III** adopted at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010) and Decision **35 COM 12.C** at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011);*
3. *Welcomes all the actions undertaken to improve the processes and practices prior to consideration by the World Heritage Committee of a nomination (the 'upstream processes') and commends the States Parties, the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre for the pilot projects in which progress was made;*
4. *Urges the States Parties concerned that have not yet done so, to fully collaborate providing technical and financial support to implement the required actions and encourages them to seek assistance from the World Heritage Fund, if necessary;*
5. *Calls upon the international community to provide technical and financial support to assist the States Parties concerned in the implementation of their pilot projects which were not able to identify adequate resources;*
6. *Requests the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre to report on the progress in implementing the pilot projects for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 37th session, in 2013.*