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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-sixth session**

**Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation  
24 June– 6 July 2012**

**Item 9B of the Provisional Agenda: Global Strategy for a representative,  
balanced and credible World Heritage List**

**9B: Follow-up to the Capacity-building strategy**

**SUMMARY**

This Document contains information on the progress made in the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (WHCBS), which was approved by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session (Paris, 2011). It also provides information on the main strategic components of a new proposed international programme on World Heritage Capacity Building.

**Draft Decision: 36 COM 9B**, See Section II

## **I. THE WORLD HERITAGE CAPACITY BUILDING STRATEGY: IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP**

### **A. Background**

1. The World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (WHCBS) was approved by the World Heritage Committee at its 35<sup>th</sup> session (Paris, 2011). The Capacity Building Strategy was developed over several years by ICCROM and IUCN in collaboration with ICOMOS, the World Heritage Centre, and other capacity building partners. The work was made possible by contributions from the World Heritage Fund and the Swiss Government which also provided professional expertise.
2. The new Strategy is important in that it moves the World Heritage system from earlier conceptions of capacity building as only training for mid-career professionals to a wider focus for capacity building including communities, institutions, administrators, and decision-makers, to name a few. It also moves beyond a strict focus on training to incorporate other activities and methods which can serve to increase capacity.
3. Based on the five Strategic Objectives of the World Heritage Committee (the 5Cs), the strategy includes one or more objectives for each and the key actions to meet those objectives. It also calls for regional and national strategies to be developed tailored to the specific needs of the region or country in question. The regional strategies should be developed as part of the cycle of Periodic Reporting, while national strategies can be developed at any time.
4. Following the approval of the strategy, the challenge will be to put these ideas into effect, and for a variety of organizations to build new and forward-looking programmes which cover aspects of the approved strategy. The Capacity Building Strategy is designed to allow any institution wanting to become involved in capacity building for the World Heritage system to be able to develop a programme which fits into its own areas of interest, while ensuring that it will also fall within the priority needs as put forward by the World Heritage Committee.

### **B. Implementation in 2011 - 2012**

5. Following the approval of the WHCBS by the World Heritage Committee, this has been widely publicized. The Strategy was presented to the ICCROM General Assembly with its 130 Member States in November 2011, to Periodic Reporting meetings held in various regions, and within the UNESCO Category 2 Centre meeting held in Milan, Italy, in January of 2012.

#### **B.1. ICCROM World Heritage Programme: Improving conservation and Management Practices through the World Heritage Convention**

6. Following the presentation of the WHCBS, the ICCROM General Assembly approved a new programme within ICCROM's biennial Programme and Budget directly concerning World Heritage. The new programme, *Improving Conservation and Management Practices through the World Heritage Convention*, will be strongly linked to the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy. Expected to have at least a six-year perspective, this new programme will seek not only to improve the state of conservation and management of World Heritage properties, but also to collect the lessons learned within the World Heritage system so that they can be applied to other cultural heritage properties. A first activity has already taken place with the implementation of the *Conservation of the Built Heritage Course* from 2 March – 27 April 2012, which includes a module on "World Heritage and Sustainable Development".

## **B.2. Ongoing IUCN-ICCROM Capacity Building Initiative**

7. This initiative is co-managed by IUCN and ICCROM in consultation with ICOMOS, with funding from the Swiss Government. The project is a collective effort by the Advisory Bodies to provide a coordinated response to capacity building needs within the World Heritage system. The combination of natural and cultural heritage approaches is considered innovative and is a key element in improving the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. The first activities of the programme took place in 2010, with the main focus, a workshop in Costa Rica for the LAC region.
8. In the period from June 2011 to May 2012, the following activities have taken place:
  - a) From 19 – 24 September 2011, a Regional World Heritage Workshop for Anglophone Africa was carried out in Mombasa, Kenya, in collaboration with the Centre for Heritage Development in Africa (CHDA), and from 27 November – 2 December 2011, a Regional World Heritage Workshop for the Arab States was carried out in Manama, Bahrain in collaboration with the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH). These two workshops were aimed at strengthening the technical networks of the Advisory Bodies by supporting natural and cultural heritage professionals in gaining a better understanding of the World Heritage Convention's concepts and processes. Two more workshops are scheduled for the end of 2012 and beginning of 2013. (This activity corresponds to Action 2.8 of the WHCBS)
  - b) On 23 May 2011, ICCROM and IUCN met with staff and faculty of the Masters in World Heritage Management at University College Dublin to carry out a participatory assessment of its Masters Degree programme. The assessment was designed to aid the university to strengthen its World Heritage courses, and to create possibilities for building partnerships between the Advisory Bodies and the programme. It is expected that participatory evaluations with other universities will be carried out in 2012 and 2013. (This activity corresponds to Actions 1.3 and 3.4 of the WHCBS)
  - c) In June 2011, the first issue of the World Heritage Capacity Building Newsletter was published and distributed at the 35th session of the World Heritage Committee in Paris, France. The second issue was published in February 2012, and a third issue is expected in time for the 36<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee. (This activity corresponds to Actions 10.2 and 10.3 of the WHCBS)
  - d) Another major component of the project is the publication and translation of key reference documents on World Heritage, with priority given to the development of companion materials for existing and forthcoming resource manuals. Work in this area is ongoing. (This activity corresponds to Actions 2.1, 4.1, and 10.5 of the WHCBS)

## **B.3. UNESCO Category 2 Centres**

9. The capacity building activities of the UNESCO Category 2 Centres are reported in a separate joint document (WHC-12/36.COM/6). At the annual meeting of the UNESCO Category 2 Centres held in Milan, each of these centres undertook an exercise to match its existing activities to the activities as foreseen within the WHCBS. The resulting table is in annex to the report of the Meeting accessible online at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/category2centres>.

## **B.4. Other Institutions**

10. University programmes continue to enhance capacity building through the provision of advanced degree courses for heritage professionals. Some of these universities have

programmes aimed specifically at the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. These include the University College Dublin in Ireland; Brandenburg University of Technology in Cottbus, Germany; Tsukuba University in Japan; University of Minnesota in the United States; and a consortium led by University of Torino and the Politecnico di Torino in Italy. Other universities, too numerous to mention, also have individual components of their heritage conservation programmes that are beneficial to the World Heritage system. UNESCO Chairs are also another important source of capacity building for World Heritage, while the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) continues a series of courses aimed at World Heritage topics on a regular basis. State Party institutions and NGOs also carried out a variety of capacity building activities.

#### **B.5. The World Heritage Centre Regional Desks**

11. The World Heritage Centre has also been planning and carrying out a variety of capacity building activities in favor of the better implementation of the Convention. These activities include capacity building connected with the various Periodic Reporting processes as well as workshops and seminars carried out on a regular basis. Information on these activities can be found in the report of the activities of the World Heritage Centre (see Doc. WHC-12/36.COM/5A.1) and in the documents on follow-up to Periodic Reporting.
12. Of particular mention is work being carried out in both the Arab States and Africa regions to develop training programmes as a result of the Periodic Reporting exercise. In both cases, the regional desks have worked closely with the Advisory Bodies and regional institutions (the ARC-WH and the ATHAR regional Centre for the Arab States, and the Africa World Heritage Fund, CHDA, and EPA in sub-Saharan Africa) in the preparation of longer term programmes for capacity building in those regions. Similar efforts are under way in the Latin America and Caribbean region, where a capacity-building strategy is being developed in close consultation with the Category 2 Centres of Rio de Janeiro and Zacatecas, in the framework of the Periodic Reporting process. Capacity-building programmes are also being implemented, notably in the Caribbean sub-region and thanks to extra-budgetary funding, on various topics including disaster preparedness and cultural landscapes' management, as a result of consultations undertaken during the Periodic Reporting exercise for the Region.
13. In the meantime, work on needs assessment and programme development is ongoing within the regional desks for Asia and the Pacific and Europe and North America, as part of the periodic reporting process. It should be noted, in particular, a Capacity Building needs assessment questionnaire prepared by the Europe and North America Desk at the Centre to determine capacity building needs in the Eastern European sub-region. This type of questionnaire could become a model for future work by the World Heritage Centre in this area.

#### **C. Towards A New International Programme for Capacity Building**

14. With the approval of the WHCBS, ICCROM, IUCN, ICOMOS, and the World Heritage Centre have begun to plan for a long-term Capacity Building programme at the international level that will complement regional and national capacity building programmes and thus contribute to achieving the goals of the strategy. It is expected that this international programme, currently under development, will be directly linked to the 10 goals of the WHCBS, and will have elements aimed at each of its three target audiences, that is, practitioners, institutions, and communities and networks, taking into account the types of activities that can be implemented for each at the international level.

15. In line with recent trends and practice, the proposed programme will place particular emphasis on the development of online E-learning modules and resource materials as an effective means to reach key target audiences. These will be complemented by, and draw inspiration from, place-based activities. At the level of practitioners, it is expected that a number of international training and research activities will take place, to allow for a cross-regional exchange of ideas and to provide new and innovative resource materials. At the institutional level, it is expected that the programme will work to build the capacity of the regional institutions, including UNESCO Category 2 Centres, to better carry out capacity building at the regional and national levels. This could be achieved through curriculum development, training of trainers, and the exchange of resource persons. In regard to communities and networks, the programme will develop and disseminate good practices and case study examples of community empowerment, so as to help practitioners and institutions working with communities to do so in a more effective way.
16. A final area that will be considered within the new programme is the need to collect and disseminate information on capacity building at an international level, as well as the need to manage the overall WHCBS. Information about capacity building throughout the World Heritage system will be collected and made available to the World Heritage Committee and other capacity building stakeholders. This will allow institutions to learn from each other and to partner on activities of joint interest. Management, monitoring and reporting on the WHCBS will also be part of this area.
17. Key thematic areas to be dealt with as part of the proposed new programme will be based on the results of the WHCBS, the Periodic Reporting process, and decisions of the World Heritage Committee on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties. Potential themes include sustainable development, disaster risk management, tourism management, heritage impact assessment and other planning tools, and management effectiveness.
18. The international programme is being developed as part of the activities of the ongoing IUCN-ICCROM Capacity Building Initiative. The details are currently being discussed by the partners, and a meeting will be held on 23 – 24 April in order to finalize the programme. It is expected that the final programme will be presented to the World Heritage Committee during its 36<sup>th</sup> session in St. Petersburg.

#### **D. Towards New Regional Programmes for Capacity Building**

19. As already mentioned, the international programme is meant to be complementary to programmes based on the Periodic Reporting exercises and the WHCBS, to be developed by the various UNESCO Category 2 Centres and other institutions who work in specific regions. The Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre will work closely with these regional organizations, both in the programme development process as well as during implementation of the various programmes at the regional or sub-regional levels. It is expected that the communication and dissemination aspects of the international programme will also serve to create better regional and inter-regional links and to strengthen capacity building efforts at the regional level.
20. The representatives of the various Category 2 Centres have indicated their willingness to continue to try to align their activities to the WHCBS. Those with a regional orientation, in particular, indicated an interest in being a part of the process for the development and implementation of regional training strategies and programmes as part of the regional Periodic Reporting exercises.
21. In order to make the international and regional programmes successful, it will be necessary to work with financial partners that have a vision of improving capacities within the World Heritage system. A strong commitment from States Parties will be

needed and interested private donors and foundations will also need to be approached to allow the programme to have the necessary resources to be successful.

## II. DRAFT DECISION

### **Draft Decision: 36 COM 9B**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/9B;
2. Recalling Decisions **34 COM 9C** and **35 COM 9B** adopted at its 34th (Brasilia, 2010) and 35th (Paris, 2011) sessions respectively;
3. Takes notes of the progress made on the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (WHCBS) by a variety of capacity building stakeholders;
4. Thanks the State Party of Switzerland for its continued support to the ongoing IUCN-ICCROM World Heritage Capacity Building Initiative;
5. Welcomes the proposed new international capacity building programme;
6. Requests the Advisory Bodies, World Heritage Centre, and the UNESCO Category 2 Centres to assist States Parties in the development of regional capacity building programmes which are based on the outcomes of the Periodic Reporting exercises and the WHCBS;
7. Encourages States Parties and the international community to support both the international capacity building programme and the regional capacity building programmes as they are developed and put into implementation;
8. Also requests ICCROM, in consultation with IUCN, ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre, to report on the progress made in the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (WHCBS) for examination by the Committee at its 37th session in 2013.