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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Thirty-eighth Session

Doha, Qatar
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Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda: Follow-up to the World Heritage Capacity Building strategy and Progress report on the World Heritage-related Category 2 Centres

SUMMARY

By its Decision **37 COM 6**, the World Heritage Committee requested a report on the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (WHCBS) as well as a progress report on the activities of the category 2 centres related to World Heritage at its 38th session in 2014. Considering their close links, these two reports are presented together within the present document.

Draft Decision: 38 COM 6, see Part III.

I. FOLLOW UP TO THE CAPACITY BUILDING STRATEGY

1. The World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (WHCBS) was approved by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session (Paris, 2011). The 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. At its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), the Committee welcomed an accompanying World Heritage Capacity Building Programme prepared by the Advisory Bodies and World Heritage Centre in order to implement a part of the overall strategy.

A. World Heritage Capacity Building Programme (WHCBP)

2. The WHCBP began with a pilot capacity building project, co-managed by IUCN and ICCROM in consultation with ICOMOS, and with funding from the Swiss Government. This pilot project was based at IUCN and was completed in December 2013. A new phase of the partnership programme, based at ICCROM was begun in May 2013, providing for an eight-month transition between the two phases. This new phase was, again, supported primarily by the Swiss Government, which has shown a strong commitment to capacity building for World Heritage. Over the past year, a number of priority activities have been implemented, and others are planned for 2014.
3. Efforts continue to strengthen the networks of the Advisory Bodies. Following the seven successful regional workshops carried out from 2010 to 2013, a number of former participants have been invited to join evaluation and reactive monitoring missions. The costs of their participation are being covered under the Programme. It is also expected to carry out an additional workshop in Latin America in 2014.
4. Translation of key materials in particular the World Heritage resource manuals (see: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/resourcemanuals/>) has also been a priority activity of the programme.
 - a) All four existing resource manuals – “*Preparing World Heritage Nominations*”, “*Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage*”, “*Managing Natural World Heritage*”, “*Managing Cultural World Heritage*” – were translated into Spanish. At the time of writing the present report (March 2014), these manuals were in the last phase of preparation and expected to be available online soon.
 - b) The translation of the manual on “*Managing Cultural World Heritage*” into French and that of “*Managing Natural World Heritage*” into Russian were also ensured.
 - c) Through the generous contribution of the State Parties of Brazil and Bahrain, the manual on “*Preparing World Heritage Nominations*” was also translated into Portuguese and Arabic.
 - d) ICOMOS Guidance on “*Heritage Impact Assessments for Cultural World Heritage Properties*” and IUCN’s “*World Heritage Advice Note: Environmental Assessment*” were translated into French, Spanish and Arabic (these documents are available for download in the respective Advisory Body’s website).
5. The development of a new course on addressing nature-culture inter-linkages in World Heritage management began in September 2013. A consultation meeting was held in late January 2014, at IUCN headquarters in Gland, Switzerland. A testing phase followed during the last week of ICCROM’s Built Heritage Course (itself a part of the WHCBP) from 22 to 28 April 2014. The development phase will terminate in June 2014, and the curriculum and resource materials developed will be made available to other capacity building partners. The first edition of the course is expected in 2015 pending necessary fundraising.

6. Other priority activities identified within the programme for 2014 include the creation of guidance materials for States Parties on international assistance requests, a Capacity Building Primer on how to develop capacity building strategies and activities, a series of interactive online resources on key aspects of the World Heritage Convention, and a second course on Heritage Impact Assessment which will be carried out in 2014 in partnership with the World Heritage Training and Research Institute for Asia and the Pacific (WHITR-AP) and ICOMOS.
7. In February 2014, the fourth issue of the World Heritage Capacity Building Newsletter was published and distributed widely through the Advisory Body networks. For the first time the newsletter was published in English, French and Spanish. A section of the newsletter is dedicated to activities of the category 2 centres, which are major actors for the implementation of the WHCBS.
8. ICCROM also continues to update its training database, which contains information on regular training opportunities for World Heritage and for cultural heritage conservation in general. ICCROM's website also contains an events database (meetings, seminar and workshops) and a classifieds section, which contains information on other events and activities related to heritage conservation.
9. There is an acute need, however, for other States Parties, as well as other potential funding and implementation organizations with an interest in capacity building, to contribute to the implementation of the overall World Heritage Capacity Building Programme in order to reach a critical mass of support for the programme to be able to reach its goals. ICCROM is currently seeking the necessary funding to ensure the continuity of the programme.

B. Regional Capacity Building Strategies

10. The World Heritage Centre, Advisory Bodies, category 2 centres, and interested States Parties are also working on the development and implementation of regional capacity building strategies as called for by the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy.
 - a) WHITR-AP, in consultation with other capacity building providers and States Parties in the region, concluded a Capacity Building Strategy and Associated Programmes for Asia and the Pacific (CBSAP-AP). It builds on the results of the Periodic Reporting in the region but also on information gathered through a questionnaire designed to assess capacity building needs. The CBSAP-AP sets forth strategic objectives for regional capacity building actions and includes associated programmes for their implementation. It includes an inventory of capacity building activities provided in the region and encourages information sharing and cooperation. The full document is accessible from: (<http://www.whitr-ap.org/index.php?classid=1489&newsid=2271&t=show>)
 - b) An Action Plan for Latin America, including capacity building activities, is also being developed, following the conclusion of the Periodic Reporting exercise in 2013. This process is being led by the World Heritage Centre, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies and States Parties in the region. At the time of the preparation of the present report, a regional meeting was expected to take place in late March 2014 in Brazil to finalize the Action Plan.
 - c) The World Heritage Centre is currently working with States Parties from Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe with the support of ICCROM to develop a new capacity building strategy for these sub-regions. A first capacity-building module for site-managers with a focus on risk management and sustainable tourism is in preparation. For the sub-regions of Mediterranean and Western Europe, desk studies on the basis of the World Heritage Committee's documents on state of conservation and nomination are in preparation to complement the outcomes of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in view of the elaboration of tailored capacity-building activities. The same exercise will be undertaken for the Nordic and Baltic sub-regions in collaboration with the Nordic World Heritage Foundation.

- d) In sub-Saharan Africa, the Africa World Heritage Fund continues to implement a regional capacity building programme which was developed as a result of the Periodic Reporting exercise. To date, a number of activities have been implemented including a series of workshops on disaster risk management and entrepreneurship as well as other activities within the Africa Nature part of the programme.
- e) In the Arab region, the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) has contributed to a number of capacity-building activities which were part of the regional programme developed as a result of the Periodic Reporting process (see also document WHC14-38COM-10B). These include support to the revision of Tentative Lists, the preparation of new Nominations and the strengthening of the protection and management of selected World Heritage properties. A specific initiative on natural heritage has also been developed, and the Centre continues to collaborate with ICCROM's ATHAR Programme. ARC-WH, furthermore, has hosted a meeting of all the regional Focal Points (in November 2013) and, at the last meeting of its Governing Board, approved initiatives in favour of the region for an amount of over 1,5 million dollars, many of which with a capacity-building component.

C. Other Capacity Building Activities

- 11. The World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, has developed a proposal to put in place a sustainable system of biennial recognition of best practice. This proposal follows the successful implementation of a pilot initiative which coincided with the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention, which recognized good practices in site management at the World Heritage Property, Historic Town of Vigan, in the Philippines. This activity contributes to the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan for the Convention 2012 – 2022; notably its Goal 1 “Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage sites is maintained” by creating tools to recognize conservation excellence and actively promoting best practice exchanges for conservation, and its Goal 4 “World Heritage maintains/enhances its brand quality” by publicizing best practice examples of heritage protection. The proposed theme for 2015 and 2017 respectively are Disaster Risk Reduction, and Sustainable Tourism. The World Heritage Centre is currently seeking financial support in order to be able to implement this activity.
- 12. In regard to the request to the Advisory Bodies on the preparation of a scoping study on the creation of a network of site managers to facilitate the sharing of best practice heritage management, it has not yet been possible to identify the relevant extra-budgetary funds to implement this activity. Nevertheless, there has been progress on the continued development of existing networks, such as those arising from the Periodic Reporting process at regional level. Another example is the thematic network developed around the World Heritage Marine Programme since 2010. This currently includes 46 marine sites in 35 countries, and allows for exchange of information through a web-based platform, a bimonthly newsletter, and a bi-annual site managers conference (further information is available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/marine-programme/>).
- 13. Furthermore, the World Heritage Centre is currently testing, through a pilot initiative, the establishment of an online platform - based on a SharePoint software - to enable exchange of experiences and collaboration among managers of marine World Heritage properties, as well as among the group of experts convened to develop a proposal for a policy on sustainable development (see Document WHC-14/38.COM/5D). These two initiatives, if proven successful, and if resources were to be made available - could be replicated among other groups sharing similar interests/concerns as a means to facilitate the eventual creation of a larger network of site managers. The IUCN World Commission for Protected Areas (WCPA) is a long-standing mechanism to enable networking between site managers of those World Heritage Areas that are also IUCN-categorised protected areas (i.e. managers of natural sites and of many World Heritage cultural landscapes). IUCN-WCPA will be launching a Specialist Group on World Heritage in 2014, which may also provide a means to consolidate the network of World Heritage site managers who already connect on a regular basis to the work of IUCN.

II. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WORLD HERITAGE RELATED CATEGORY 2 CENTRES

14. As apparent from Part I above, one of the key players for the implementation of the WHCBS are the category 2 centres related to World Heritage. Part II of this document presents more in detail recent developments regarding these institutions.

A. Activities of the category 2 centres

15. The activities of the category 2 centres since the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee (Phnom Penh, 2013) are too manifold and varied to be reported in detail here. At the time of the preparation of the present document, individual progress reports were being prepared by each of the centres, to be posted on the website of the World Heritage Centre (see: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/category2centres/>). These reports shall include a table indicating, for each of the activities implemented or planned, the relevant priority “action” within the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy.

B. Establishment and reviews of category 2 centres

16. A new category 2 centre formally related to World Heritage was approved in November 2013, when the General Conference of UNESCO authorised the Director-General to sign an Agreement with the Government of India for the establishment of a Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for the Asia and Pacific Region, located in Dehradun. This brings the total to nine, plus the International Centre on Space Technologies for Cultural and Natural Heritage (HIST), based in China, which deals with heritage protection and takes part in coordination meetings, but is administratively affiliated to the Science Sector within UNESCO.
17. The Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for the Asia and Pacific Region, which will be integral part of the renowned Wildlife Institute of India (WII), shall contribute to the aims of the World Heritage Convention through capacity building programmes; research on identified priority issues, with particular focus on models of community participation; by developing and maintaining a documentation centre accessible to the public on World Natural Heritage issues relevant to the region; and implementing exchange programmes with other regional resource centres. At the time of writing the present report (March 2014), the Agreement between the Government of India and UNESCO had not yet been signed.
18. Moreover, by letter addressed to the Assistant Director-General for Culture in August 2013, the Government of Indonesia has put forward a request for action for the establishment of a Centre for Human Evolution Research and World Heritage Management, to be located at the Sangiran World Heritage property, as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO. The proposal was reviewed on a preliminary basis by the Secretariat in consultation with the Scientific Committee of the Human Evolution, Adaptation, Dispersal and Social Developments (HEADS) Programme. Based on this desk review, it was considered that the proposal had some potential and that a proper feasibility study was justified.
19. From 16 to 18 October 2013, an international expert workshop was held in Solo (Indonesia) to discuss the proposal and identify possible issues to be addressed. Two experts identified by UNESCO took part in this workshop. As a result of the information gathered through the workshop, which included also a visit to the site of Sangiran and to the premises of the proposed category 2 centre, the Secretariat addressed a letter to the Indonesian Government on 9 November 2013. This confirmed the potential for the establishment of a category 2 centre, but pointed also to a number of questions that would have required attention with a view to strengthening the proposal, before a proper feasibility study could be carried out, including a reassessment of the suggested focus of the proposed Centre and the need to reinforce its capacities.
20. By letter dated 1 November 2013 addressed to the Director of the World Heritage Centre, moreover, the Ambassador of the Russian Federation informed UNESCO of its intention to

establish, in Moscow, a category 2 centre related to World Heritage and covering Eastern Europe and the Community of Independent States. Following the letter, informal discussions have taken place between the World Heritage Centre and the concerned authorities of the State Party, on procedural and substantial aspects of the proposal. A proper “Request for Action” complying with the requirements set out in the integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 centres, however, has not yet been submitted by the State Party to UNESCO.

21. Over the past year, the Nordic World Heritage Foundation has been the subject of an in-depth evaluation, conducted by an independent consultancy firm. This was foreseen in the terms of the agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Norway and was also necessary since this agreement is due to expire at the end of 2014. The process for the evaluation was managed by the Ministry of Environment of Norway, which also provided the funding, in very close collaboration with a “reference group” including the World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Internal Oversight Service (IOS).
22. At the time of writing of the present report, the outcome of the evaluation is being considered by both UNESCO and the Government of Norway with a view to reaching a common position, which will be reflected in the document to be submitted to the consideration of the Executive Board of UNESCO at its 195th session in the fall of 2014.
23. In the course of 2014, it is also envisaged that a review will be conducted of the World Heritage Institute for Training and Research – Asia Pacific (WHITR-AP), with a view to present its findings to the Executive Board at its 195th session in the fall of 2014, in conformity with the provisions of the newly adopted integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 centres (see part D below).

C. Coordination

24. As every year, in 2014, the category 2 centres related to World Heritage are planning to hold a coordination meeting. At the time of the preparation of the present report (March 2014), this meeting was planned to be hosted by the World Heritage Institute for Training and Research – Asia Pacific (WHITR-AP) and was expected to take place in Shanghai (China) from 23 to 26 May 2014 including in its agenda a progress report on the actions agreed by the category 2 centres at their last coordination meeting of Oslo (Norway), in March 2013 (the report of this meeting is accessible from: <http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/activities/documents/activity-676-14.pdf>). An oral report on the main outcomes of the coordination meeting to be held in Shanghai will be presented to the Committee at its 38th Session.
25. In terms of coordination between the category 2 centres related to World Heritage and UNESCO Chairs, besides bilateral contacts and cooperation, a consultation process has been initiated by a small group of UNESCO Chairs active in the field of heritage conservation, which has involved the World Heritage Centre and ICCROM. A planning workshop is being organized for the summer of 2014 to explore the possible formalization of a network, under the UNITWIN Programme of UNESCO, which would help streamlining the contribution of these Universities to the objectives of the World Heritage Convention and strengthen their synergies with existing category 2 centres, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies.

D. The new integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 centres

26. The General Conference of UNESCO, at its 37th session (Paris, 2013), adopted a new integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 centres (37 C/Resolution 93), which is accessible online from: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002217/221715e.pdf>. The new strategy contains a number of innovations, notably with respect to ensuring that agreements for category 2 centres have an expiry date (their duration being fixed in six years); to providing for a compulsory review towards the end of the period of the agreement, whose cost should be borne by the host country or the Centre/institute concerned; and in tying more closely the activities of the category 2 centres to the objectives and expected results of UNESCO as defined at its various levels of governance. The

activities implemented by the category 2 centres shall be also reported in SISTER¹ against the above-mentioned strategic objectives.

27. The new strategy foresees as well that the renewal of the agreements between UNESCO and the concerned Governments for category 2 centres located in their countries should be explicitly authorized by a decision by the Executive Board of UNESCO, based on a review of their activities.
28. All these changes will have to be reflected in the agreements for new category 2 centres, but also within those for the existing category 2 centres, which will be amended accordingly upon their renewal, following the expiry of their current agreements. Of particular importance will be the inclusion within the new agreements of explicit reference to the specific objectives and expected results – as approved by UNESCO's governing bodies and the World Heritage Committee - to which the category 2 centres shall contribute.

III. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision 38 COM 6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-14/38.COM/6,*
2. *Recalling decisions **36 COM 6**, **36 COM 9B**, **37 COM 5E** and **37 COM 6**, adopted at its 36th and 37th session respectively,*
3. *Commends the progress made in the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (WHCBS), its accompanying World Heritage Capacity Building Programme, and the capacity building activities carried out in 2013 and 2014;*
4. *Notes with appreciation the continued support of the Government of Switzerland in the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity Building Programme;*
5. *Acknowledges the acute need, however, for additional significant contributions in order to reach a critical mass of support for the programme to be able to reach its goal, and calls upon other States Parties and organizations to provide additional funding and other support for the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity Building Programme and associated activities at the international and regional levels;*
6. *Takes note of the development of the regional capacity building strategies and initiatives as a follow up to Periodic Reporting exercise in all regions, and notably of the conclusion of the Regional Capacity Building Strategy and Associated Programmes for Asia and the Pacific, led by the World Heritage Institute for Training and Research in Asia and the Pacific (WHITR-AP), and calls upon States Parties and all concerned partners and stakeholders of the region to follow-up the implementation of the strategy;*
7. *Encourages the ongoing efforts by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to establish a biennial recognition of best practice, notably through identifying extrabudgetary financial support towards the implementation of this activity;*

¹ SISTER (System of Information on Strategies, Tasks and the Evaluation of Results) is the online reporting tool in place at UNESCO.

8. *Welcomes the progress made by all category 2 centres related to World Heritage in implementing their activities as well as the outcomes of their fourth coordination meeting (Shanghai, 23-26 May 2014), generously hosted by WHITR-AP;*
9. *Further welcomes the establishment of the Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training for the Asia and Pacific Region in Dehradun (India) as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO;*
10. *Also takes note of the new integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 centres, adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO, at its 37th session (Paris, 2013);*
11. *Encourages furthermore the ongoing efforts to develop a UNITWIN network of UNESCO Chairs active in the field of heritage conservation which would help streamlining their contribution to the objectives of the World Heritage Convention and strengthen their synergies with existing category 2 centres, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;*
12. *Requests the World Heritage Centre and ICCROM to submit a progress report on the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy and the activities of the category 2 centres related to World Heritage for examination by the Committee at its 39th session in 2015.*