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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-ninth session

**Bonn, Germany
28 June – 8 July 2015**

Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda: Reports of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies

5B. Reports of the Advisory Bodies

SUMMARY

This document contains the brief summary reports of the Advisory Bodies on their activities in 2014-2015, from the 38th to the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee, as follows:

- I. ICCROM
- II. ICOMOS
- III. IUCN

Draft Decision: 39 COM 5B, see Part IV.

I. REPORT ON ICCROM ACTIVITIES

A.1. Introduction

1. Following the request of the World Heritage Committee, this brief report outlines the key areas of ICCROM's work on the World Heritage Convention for the period from March 2014 to March 2015. ICCROM support to the Committee during this period has been provided principally by Joseph King (Unit Director, Sites Unit), Gamini Wijesuriya (Project Manager, Sites Unit), Leticia Leitao (Consultant for Capacity Building) and Elena Incerti Medici (Senior Administrative Assistant), with collaboration from other ICCROM staff, all under the direction of ICCROM Director-General, Stefano De Caro. Members of the ICCROM network also contribute to support these activities. In addition to its direct work on the *Convention*, ICCROM also has a programme within its own Programme and Budget entitled Improving Conservation and Management Practices through the World Heritage Convention, which helps to improve conservation at World Heritage properties and to use knowledge developed within the World Heritage system to better conserve cultural heritage properties more generally.

A.2. 38th session of the World Heritage Committee

2. ICCROM attendance at the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee was led by the Director-General, Stefano De Caro, and included Joseph King, Gamini Wijesuriya and Leticia Leitao. In addition, ICCROM participated in a number of meetings and activities in preparation of 38th session of the Committee including meetings of the Advisory Bodies and World Heritage Centre, as well as the World Heritage Information meeting in Paris (January 2015).

A.3. Nominations to the World Heritage List

3. Not applicable to ICCROM's role with the *World Heritage Convention*.

A.4. Monitoring of State of Conservation of World Heritage properties

4. ICCROM has been fully involved in the preparation of State of Conservation reports for the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee. Towards this end, ICCROM led the drafting of some reports, and commented on others prepared by ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre. ICCROM also participated in drafting meetings of the State of Conservation reports, that took place in March and April 2015 at the WHC. In addition, ICCROM participated in joint reactive monitoring missions to six World Heritage properties – the Stone Town of Zanzibar in Tanzania, Historical Monuments of Mtskheta in Georgia, the Cornwall and West Devon Mining Landscape in the United Kingdom, the Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi in Uganda, the Lamu Old Town in Kenya and the Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace in Lhasa, China.

A.5. Periodic Reporting

5. ICCROM continues to fully contribute to the Periodic Reporting process in all regions in cooperation with the relevant regional units of the World Heritage Centre. This includes:
 - a) Attendance at regional and sub-regional meetings during all phases of the Periodic Reporting process;
 - b) Working with regional partners on the development of regional or sub-regional capacity-building strategies based on the results of the Periodic Reporting process;

- c) Implementation of specific capacity-building activities both during the process and after the completion of reports.

A.6. Capacity Building for World Heritage

6. ICCROM has continued to collaborate with IUCN, ICOMOS, and the World Heritage Centre on capacity-building issues, in particular in the development and implementation of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Programme (WHCBP) with generous funding from the Swiss Government. Activities within this programme during the past year have included continued work on the development of a *World Heritage Capacity-Building Guidance* document. This document will help States Parties to develop their own capacity-building strategies based on their specific needs. This document is in draft form and will be finalized in 2015. Work has also continued to develop closer links between the management of cultural and natural heritage. A course curriculum has now been developed, and a first pilot workshop was held in April 2014 as part of ICCROM's Conservation of Built Heritage course. ICCROM is now planning a new course, "Engaging Communities in the Conservation of Nature and Culture", to take place at ICCROM (Rome) in October 2015. ICCROM has also continued to work with IUCN and ICOMOS to strengthen their networks of professionals by creating mentoring opportunities for younger professionals.
7. As part of the WHCBP, ICCROM, in collaboration with World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITR-AP), implemented a course on Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) which took place at the World Heritage property of Mount Qingcheng and the Dujiangyan Irrigation System, in China, from 13 to 24 October 2014.
8. ICCROM continues to update its training database, events database, and classifieds section of its website, as a means of ensuring the dissemination of information on World Heritage capacity-building and other activities to a wider audience.
9. ICCROM works with category 2 centres and other regional institutions to strengthen capacity-building at the regional and sub-regional levels. This work includes ongoing partnerships with the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), WHITR-AP, Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), to name a few. Partnerships include sitting on governing or advisory boards, providing advice on the development of capacity-building strategies at the regional and sub-regional levels, and partnership in the implementation of some activities. For example, ICCROM took part in a meeting on Traditional Management Systems organized by AWHF, which took place in Zimbabwe in November 2014.
10. ICCROM also continues to lecture on invitation at a number of World Heritage related master degree training programmes, including the World Heritage Studies Programme at BTU Cottbus (Germany), the Master in World Heritage and Cultural Projects for Development at the Turin School of Development (Italy), the Master in World Natural Heritage Management at the Trento School of Management (Italy) and at Tsukuba University (Japan).
11. Finally, ICCROM was responsible for the development and implementation of several World Heritage orientation sessions for Committee members immediately before the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee in Doha, Qatar, and a session in January 2015 at UNESCO Headquarters. ICCROM will work with the World Heritage Centre and other Advisory Bodies on the implementation of future sessions prior to the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee in Bonn, Germany.
12. For more information on capacity-building activities, please refer to Document WHC-15/39.COM/6.

A.7. Resource Manuals

13. While no additional Resource Manuals have been prepared following *Managing Cultural World Heritage*, this most recent publication was published in paper form by the World Heritage Centre in 2015. English, French and Spanish versions of all the resource manuals are now completed and are online at the WHC website. Several manuals have been translated into Arabic and Portuguese. Russian language versions of the manuals on *Preparing World Heritage Nominations* and *Managing Natural World Heritage* are currently being finalized and should be available in 2015.

A.8. International Assistance

14. ICCROM reviewed and advised on approximately 35 International Assistance requests made by States Parties and participated in 2 International Assistance Panel meetings during the year.

A.9. Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value

15. Not applicable to ICCROM's role with the *World Heritage Convention*.

A.10. Thematic Studies

16. Work on the *Policy Guidelines* (Decision **37 COM 13**) has been generously funded by the Government of Australia. A contract for the work on the scoping study will begin in April 2015. More information on progress on this important issue will be provided to the Committee at the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee in Bonn, Germany.

A.11. Technical Meetings

17. ICCROM has participated in a number of technical meetings during the past year, such as a meeting on a proposed museum at the Laetoli Footprints site within the Ngorongoro Conservation Area World Heritage property in Tanzania. ICCROM also partnered with UNESCO, the Agency for Cultural Affairs of Japan, ICOMOS-ICORP (International Committee on Risk Preparedness) and the National Institutes of Cultural Heritage of Japan on the implementation of an expert meeting on Cultural Heritage and Disaster Resilient Communities as part of the World Conference in Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR) from 11-17 March 2015, in Sendai, Japan. ICCROM also participated in the follow-up meeting on the results of the *World Heritage Convention: Thinking Ahead* meeting convened by the Director-General of UNESCO on 21 January 2015. ICCROM looks forward to continued dialogue and exchange with States Parties to the *Convention*, as we all work together to implement the recommendations of this important meeting.

II. REPORT ON ICOMOS ACTIVITIES

A.1. Introduction

18. ICOMOS reaffirms its commitment to serve the World Heritage Committee in spite of the challenges that the *World Heritage Convention* is facing. It continues to develop activities related to the implementation of the *Convention* with the help of its Working Group. The Working Group meets three times a year to ensure that the work submitted to the Committee meets the highest performance criteria, to improve working procedures and to review the principles for applying the mandate entrusted to it.

19. ICOMOS continues to work to ensure a broad geo-cultural representation within its Working Group, the World Heritage Panel, and the experts who are responsible for the evaluation of nominations and for monitoring of the State of Conservation of World Heritage properties. The report on the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel (December 2014) and the terms of reference are available on the ICOMOS website: <http://www.icomos.org/en/what-we-do/involvement-in-international-conventions/world-heritage>.
20. ICOMOS has strengthened dialogue and communication in the evaluation process of nomination proposals as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session and within the framework of the meeting with the Director-General of UNESCO on *The World Heritage Convention: Thinking Ahead* initiative (UNESCO headquarters, 21 January 2015). The World Heritage Committee should also take into consideration, as appropriate, the financial implications relating to the strengthening of dialogue by the Advisory Body.
21. ICOMOS considers that strengthening the dialogue with States Parties, within the framework of the “Upstream processes” and advisory missions could, in the long-term ensure a more representative World Heritage List.
22. ICOMOS also gratefully acknowledges the spirit of collaboration that not only prevails between UNESCO and the States Parties, but that is also reflected in the work carried out jointly with ICCROM, IUCN and other partner organisations.
23. IUCN and ICOMOS have strengthened their cooperation in the evaluation of mixed properties and initiated a project on Connecting Practice: Defining new methods and strategies to support Nature and Culture through engagement in the World Heritage Convention. The results of this project will be presented at the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee.

A.2. 38th session of the World Heritage Committee

24. ICOMOS was represented at the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee by a solid delegation. ICOMOS assisted in the preparation of the working documents for the Committee session with the World Heritage Centre, and at the orientation session of the World Heritage Committee with ICCROM and IUCN.
25. ICOMOS presented its work pertaining to the evaluation of nominations of cultural and mixed properties, Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value, and on the monitoring of the state of conservation of properties. ICOMOS also contributed to discussions on other items on the agenda, such as the revision of the *Operational Guidelines*, Sustainable Development, the evaluation of the Global Strategy and Strategic Action Plan, and pilot projects for the “Upstream processes” as well as the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting, notably that of North America.

A.3. Nominations to the World Heritage List

26. For the 2015 cycle, ICOMOS evaluated 33 nominations to the World Heritage List, one referred nomination, 10 minor modifications/creation of buffer zones and 13 draft statements of Outstanding Universal Value that will be presented at the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee.
27. Overall, ICOMOS notes that the nominations are becoming increasingly complex, and this is sometimes at the expense of clarity or coherence of the dossiers. Some nominations could also benefit from a longer preparation time.
28. ICOMOS has also continued to provide follow-up to the decisions of the World Heritage Committee in relation to pilot projects for the “Upstream processes” identified in

consultation with the States Parties. Additional resources will be needed to develop this activity.

A.4. Monitoring the State of Conservation of World Heritage properties

29. ICOMOS prepared part of the reports on the monitoring of the State of Conservation of cultural and mixed properties to be presented at the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee (Documents WHC-15/39.COM/7A, 7B and Add.).
30. ICOMOS would have carried out and prepared reports for 15 Reactive Monitoring missions for the 39th session. At the request of the States Parties, ICOMOS has also carried out 11 Advisory missions.
31. In addition, the World Heritage Centre consults with Advisory Bodies on a regular basis throughout the year regarding problems or threats faced by properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. Additional research work has been carried out, notably via ICOMOS networks. Documents have been examined and written reports have been sent to the World Heritage Centre.
32. Monitoring the State of Conservation of properties is an essential activity of the *World Heritage Convention* and additional resources should be made available for its effective implementation.

A.5. Periodic Reporting

33. The Advisory Body has participated in activities coordinated by the regional units for the second cycle of Periodic Reporting for the Latin America and Caribbean region (Sub-Regional Meeting for the Caribbean Action Plan, Havana, Cuba, 26-28 November 2014) and for Europe (Final Europe Periodic Reporting meeting at the Fortress of Suomenlinna, Finland, 1-2 December 2014), as well as the implementation of Action Plans for the Arab region and for the Asia and the Pacific region.

A.6. Capacity-building

34. ICOMOS contributed to the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy (WHCBS) elaborated by ICCROM and IUCN.
35. ICOMOS has continued its collaboration with the UNESCO category 2 centres related to World Heritage for the setting up of their programmes.

A.7. International Assistance

36. ICOMOS has considered all International Assistance requests for cultural and mixed properties that were submitted and participated in the Panels that examine and evaluate these requests.

A.8. Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value (RSOUV)

37. ICOMOS has studied and reviewed all the Retrospective Statements of OUV which have been submitted in accordance with the timeline set by the World Heritage Committee. The review of the statements from the Europe and North America region has continued.

A.9. Thematic Studies

38. ICOMOS shall present the thematic study on the *Cultural Heritages of Water in the Arid, Semi-arid and Mediterranean regions of the Middle East and Maghreb* at the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee.

39. The Advisory Body has also initiated a thematic study on the *Tea Landscapes of Asia*.

A.10. Technical meetings

40. ICOMOS has participated in several technical meetings organised by the World Heritage Centre.
41. ICOMOS took part in the meetings of the Advisory Bodies with the World Heritage Centre (September 2014 and January 2015), the orientation session for World Heritage Committee members (and the meeting of the Advisory Bodies with the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee (January 2015), as well as in the closing meeting of the *ad-hoc working group* (March 2015) convened by the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee to examine issues and formulate recommendations on the evaluation and nomination process.

III. REPORT ON IUCN ACTIVITIES

A.1. Introduction

42. In view of the budgetary pressures on the *World Heritage Convention's* implementation, IUCN presents again a brief report on its work to the Committee. More information on IUCN's work on the World Heritage Convention is available at: www.iucn.org/worldheritage to complement the brief report below. IUCN is pleased to provide further information on any aspect of its work upon request.
43. IUCN's most recent approved resolutions on World Heritage are available in IUCN's three official languages of English, French and Spanish at: http://www.iucnworldconservationcongress.org/member_s_assembly/resolutions/. Information on the IUCN Global Programme is available at: http://www.iucn.org/what/global_programme/. In addition, in 2014, the IUCN World Parks Congress, which is organized once in a decade, was held in Sydney, Australia from 12 to 19 November 2014. World Heritage was considered a cross-cutting theme at the World Parks Congress, which also included a series of major workshops on various aspects of the *Convention*. The Director-General of UNESCO was a keynote speaker at the Congress, delivering a plenary entitled "Why do Protected Areas Matter". The outcome of the World Parks Congress is the "Promise of Sydney" and World Heritage outcomes are available at: http://worldparkscongress.org/about/promise_of_sydney_innovative_approaches.html.
44. In 2013-2014, IUCN completed an evaluation of its World Heritage Programme. The 2014 IUCN Council approved the management response to this evaluation, which was also reported verbally to the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee (Doha, 2014). The documents are available online at: https://www.iucn.org/knowledge/monitoring_evaluation/database/all_iucn_evaluations/.
45. IUCN notes that the *Convention's* severe budgetary challenges continue. In line with the IUCN activities highlighted above and the IUCN Programme for 2013-2016, the work of IUCN World Heritage Programme is focused on complementing its advisory role to the World Heritage Committee with proactive programmes of support to States Parties, and to the large body of IUCN's members and partners to engage in the *Convention*. Priorities among this work include: (a) the development of the IUCN World Heritage Outlook, launched at the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee (Doha, 2014); (b) proactive initiatives to promote work on possible priorities for States Parties in developing World Heritage nominations (in line with the spirit of the "Upstream Processes"); (c) strengthening IUCN's regional capacity and diversity in both its secretariat and expert networks; (d) work on the consideration of rights-based

approaches in relation to World Heritage sites, and the benefits that they provide to local communities and indigenous peoples and; (e) ensuring the relevance of World Heritage to wider conservation and sustainable development initiatives, notably the contribution of World Heritage to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its agreed Programme of Work on Protected Areas.

46. In the course of 2014, IUCN has agreed to increase its own level of investment in World Heritage and concluded a four-year agreement with the MAVA Foundation for a new phase of work within the IUCN World Heritage Programme, A Brighter Outlook for World Heritage. The work of IUCN's World Heritage Programme will be presented at side-events during the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee. IUCN notes that while it has been able to mobilise additional support from the MAVA Foundation, this funding is not available to support IUCN's statutory work in advising the World Heritage Committee, which is expected to be supported by the World Heritage Fund. IUCN has reiterated that the current workload in this regard is unsustainable, and recommended that the Committee meet every two years, instead of annually to enable budgets of both the *Convention* and States Parties to be reprioritised to following up Committee decisions, and increasing dialogue in the evaluation and monitoring processes of the *Convention*.
47. IUCN acknowledges with thanks the strong and growing partnerships with UNESCO, ICCROM, ICOMOS and also with a range of partners and a number of States Parties to enable its work. IUCN also acknowledges with thanks the very significant volunteered efforts of its members and expert commissions. Without their support, IUCN's work would not be possible.

A.2. 38th session of the World Heritage Committee

48. IUCN attended the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee with a diverse and effective delegation and contributed fully in all relevant items of the Committee's agenda.

A.3. Nominations to the World Heritage List

49. IUCN completed evaluations of all natural and mixed nominations, and presented its recommendations to the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee in line with the requirements of the *Operational Guidelines*. This work for the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee was on track at the time of the writing of this report. Commentary on these matters is provided in the introduction to IUCN's evaluation report in Document WHC-15/39.COM/8B.

A.4. Monitoring the State of Conservation of World Heritage properties

50. IUCN led the drafting of the majority of State of Conservation reports on natural properties presented to the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee and those that will be presented to the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee.
51. The IUCN World Heritage Outlook is a complementary activity to IUCN's work on Reactive Monitoring and was launched at the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee, and with the first global assessment of natural World Heritage launched at the IUCN World Parks Congress. This is the most significant new IUCN contribution to the *Convention* and will provide the hub for IUCN's future World Heritage Programme. More information on the IUCN World Heritage Outlook is available at: <http://worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org/>.
52. In addition, with the support of the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (*Bundesamt für Naturschutz – BfN*), IUCN completed the first global assessment of the

benefits that natural World Heritage sites provide to people and communities. This assessment was also launched at the IUCN World Parks Congress. IUCN will present further on the World Heritage Outlook at side events during the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee. Further information is available at: http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/wcpa_worldheritage/publications/?uPubslD=5091.

A.5. Periodic Reporting

53. IUCN has contributed fully to the Periodic Reporting exercise in all regions, where IUCN's input and further plans will be considered under the relevant items of the Committee's agenda (see Document WHC-15/39.COM/10.B). In 2014, IUCN was also pleased to confirm a new partnership with the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), a UNESCO category 2 centre, to support natural heritage in the Arab region. IUCN maintains focal points for World Heritage in all regions, although most require significant additional resources to be able to meet the demands for support.

A.6. Capacity-Building for World Heritage

54. Funding for capacity-building by IUCN was cut in 2012 due to budgetary constraints in UNESCO, and remains at zero in the current biennium. This will be further discussed under the relevant item on the Committee's agenda.

A.7. Resource Manuals

55. IUCN is pleased to see continued progress with the Resource Manuals and the translation to more languages to facilitate greater access by States Parties. A focus on further translation efforts and dissemination of these resources should be at the centre of capacity building efforts.

A.8. International Assistance

56. IUCN reviewed and advised on all International Assistance requests from States Parties as required, and participated in the International Assistance Panels.

A.9. Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value (RSOUV)

57. IUCN has completed the review of all Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value as requested in line with the agreed priorities of the World Heritage Committee.

A.10. Thematic Studies

58. No budget currently exists for thematic studies, and therefore none are under development at the moment.

A.11. Technical Meetings

59. IUCN has attended and helped to organise technical meetings on request. IUCN is also committed to following up on the meetings convened by the UNESCO Director-General in relation to *The World Heritage Convention: Thinking Ahead* initiative. IUCN notes the importance of following up on this meeting, as part of the response to the External Evaluation of the *Convention* by UNESCO's External Auditor, in order to develop an effective and prioritised programme of work to address the challenges raised. IUCN has also engaged, when requested by the *ad hoc working group* of States Parties

convened by the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee, examining the working methods related to the evaluation of World Heritage nominations.

B. GENERAL JOINT COMMENT OF THE ADVISORY BODIES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

60. As requested by the 35th session of the World Heritage Committee, in Decision **35 COM 5B** (point 3) the Advisory Bodies provide this short general statement on the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*.
61. The Advisory Bodies note the progress made in implementing the recommendations that came out of the Director-General of UNESCO's meeting of October 2012, "The World Heritage Convention: Thinking Ahead", and the follow-up meeting held at UNESCO Headquarters on 21 January 2015. The Advisory Bodies believe that a continued dialogue with States Parties to the *Convention* is a useful means of moving forward to more effective and efficient implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*.
62. Towards this end, the Advisory Bodies welcome the reflections on improved evaluation processes, and confirm their willingness to adopt new working methods and increase dialogue. They note that the greatest priority for the improvement of nominations would be the implementation of the "Upstream Processes", which would necessitate substantially more resources in order for all States Parties to be able to benefit. This is particularly important considering the continued lack of balance in the World Heritage List.
63. The Advisory Bodies note with concern, however, that while much of the dialogue is focused on nominations and the nomination process, there is less attention being given to improvement of the State of Conservation of properties, and in particular to the gap between Committee decisions and their implementation. Tools such as Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA), effective management planning as well as direct capacity-building activities exist, but more resources and efforts must be given to supporting their dissemination and use by States Parties.
64. As in previous years, a serious problem faced is the impact of budget cuts on the health of the World Heritage system. Despite the growing requests for additional work and dialogue, there is still no approach by the World Heritage Committee to addressing the overall growing need for financial resources, and the balance between the work requested and the resources that are currently available.
65. The Advisory Bodies have been trying to cooperate and develop more efficient working relationships among themselves and with the World Heritage Centre. Many good partnerships have been developed, for example the *Connecting Practice* initiative of IUCN and ICOMOS, and the World Heritage Capacity-Building Programme which brings together all the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre.
66. Significant challenges remain in the ability of the Advisory Bodies to meet the requests of the World Heritage Committee and States Parties, but the Advisory Bodies look forward to continued dialogue and communication with all actors in the World Heritage system to improve outcomes for the better protection of our common heritage of Outstanding Universal Value.

IV. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision: 39 COM 5B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/5B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **38 COM 5B** adopted at its 38th session (Doha, 2014),*
3. *Takes note with appreciation of the reports of the Advisory Bodies (ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN) on their activities;*
4. *Welcomes the harmonization of the reports by the Advisory Bodies and the comments on the progress made and gaps identified for the implementation of the Convention.*