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# World Heritage

# 40 COM

**WHC/16/40.COM/5B**

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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**

**Fortieth session**

**Istanbul, Turkey  
10 July – 20 July 2016**

**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 since the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee, as follows:

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

**Draft Decision: 40 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 2015 to March 2016. 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), Akiko Umezu (Project Manager, Sites Unit) 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 both 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. 39th session of the World Heritage Committee**

2. ICCROM attendance at the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee was led by the Director General, Stefano De Caro, and included Joseph King, Gamini Wijesuriya, and Akiko Umezu. In addition, ICCROM participated in a number of meetings and activities in preparation of the 39th and 40th sessions of the Committee including meetings of the Advisory Bodies and World Heritage Centre (Paris, September 2015, and Paris, January 2016) and World Heritage Information meetings (Paris, May 2015 and June 2016).

### **A.3. Nominations to the World Heritage List**

3. For the first time, ICCROM was invited to attend the ICOMOS Panel as a non-voting member. ICCROM was represented by Joseph King at the first panel meeting in November 2015, and the second panel meeting in March 2016.

### **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 in the drafting of some reports, and commented on others prepared by ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre. ICCROM also participated in the two drafting meetings for SoC reports that took place in March and April 2015. ICCROM participated in joint reactive monitoring missions to four World Heritage properties, the Historic Ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa in China, the Kathmandu Valley in Nepal, the Stone Town of Zanzibar in Tanzania, the Royal Palaces of Abomey in Benin. ICCROM also participated in an Advisory Mission to the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu in Peru.

### **A.5. Periodic Reporting**

5. ICCROM continues to contribute to the Periodic Reporting process in all regions in cooperation with the relevant regional units of the World Heritage Centre. This includes:

- attendance at regional and sub-regional meetings during all phases of the Periodic Reporting process;
- working with regional partners on the development of regional or sub-regional capacity building strategies based on the results of the Periodic Reporting process (in particular work this year included work on the Pacific Action Plan and the Latin America Action Plan);
- implementation of specific capacity building activities both during the process and after the reports are completed.

#### **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, and in particular in the development and implementation of the World Heritage Capacity Building Programme (WHCBP) with generous funding from the Swiss Government. Furthermore, ICCROM and IUCN have been working with the Government of Norway to develop a medium term, six-year programme for capacity building, "World Heritage Leadership". Activities implemented this year include a course on People-Centered Approaches to Conservation which took place in Rome and the Bay of Naples in Italy in October 2015, a special module on Heritage Impact Assessment as a part of the ICCROM course on Conservation of Built Heritage (April 2016), and two workshops to continue to build the networks of the Advisory Bodies which took place in Gland, Switzerland for Nordic heritage professionals, and in Rome, Italy for Latin American heritage professionals. Workshops were also carried out in Nepal to help that country in its post-disaster response and recovery.
7. ICCROM continues to update its events database, the classifieds section of its website, and its social media presence as a means of ensuring the dissemination of information on World Heritage capacity building and other activities to a wider audience.
8. 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 AWHF, WHITR-AP, 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.
9. 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 and the Master in World Natural Heritage Management at the Trento School of Management, and is working with Tsukuba University on a series of capacity building workshops on Nature-Culture Linkages in Heritage Conservation.
10. Finally, ICCROM, in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and other Advisory Bodies, was responsible for the development and implementation of several World Heritage Orientation Sessions for Committee members including a session in February 2016 in Paris, and immediately before the 39<sup>th</sup> session in Bonn, Germany. ICCROM will work with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies on the implementation of further sessions prior to the 40<sup>th</sup> session in Istanbul, Turkey.
11. For more information on capacity building activities, see Document WHC/16/40.COM/6.

#### **A.7. Resource Manuals**

12. The ICCROM-ATHAR Centre in Sharjah UAE, in partnership with ARC-WH in Bahrain, translated two resource manuals, "Preparing World Heritage Nominations" and

“Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage” into Arabic. More information on other translations of the existing manuals can be found in the Document WHC/16/40.COM/6 on capacity building.

#### **A.8. International Assistance**

13. ICCROM reviewed and advised on approximately 33 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**

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

#### **A.10. Policy Guidelines**

15. In 2015, funding was made available, through a generous contribution of the Government of Australia, to develop the scoping study for the policy guidelines, as requested by the World Heritage Committee in Decision 37 COM 13. Through a contract with the World Heritage Centre, ICCROM undertook this scoping study in early 2016. In developing this scoping study, ICCROM utilized the services of Mr. Greg Terrill, a former member of the Australian delegation to the World Heritage Committee and the former chairperson of the Working Group on the Reflection on the Future of the World Heritage Convention. The scoping study can be found in document WHC/16/40.COM/12.

## **II. REPORT ON ICOMOS ACTIVITIES**

### **A.1. Introduction**

16. ICOMOS reaffirms its commitment to serve the World Heritage Committee in spite of the challenges that the World Heritage Convention is facing.
17. ICOMOS continues to work to ensure a broad geo-cultural representation within the World Heritage Panel and the experts who are responsible for the evaluation of nominations and the monitoring of the state of conservation of World Heritage properties. The terms of reference of the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel are available on the ICOMOS website: <http://www.icomos.org/en/what-we-do/involvement-in-international-conventions/world-heritage>
18. ICOMOS has strengthened the dialogue and communication in the evaluation process of nomination proposals as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session and within the frame of the meeting with the General Director on “The World Heritage Convention: Thinking Ahead” (UNESCO HQ, 21 January 2015). The World Heritage Committee should take into consideration, as appropriate, the financial implications relating to the strengthening of dialogue by the Advisory Body.
19. ICOMOS considers that the strengthening of dialogue with States Parties within the frame of the upstream processes and advisory missions could, in the long term, ensure a more representative World Heritage List.
20. ICOMOS gratefully acknowledges the spirit of collaboration which prevails with UNESCO and the States Parties but also the work that is carried out jointly with ICCROM, IUCN and the other partner organisations.
21. IUCN and ICOMOS have strengthened their cooperation in the evaluation and state of conservation of mixed properties and initiated a project on “*Connecting practices:*

*Defining new methods and strategies to support Nature and Culture through engagement in the World Heritage Convention”, of which the results were presented at the 39th COM and of which the second phase has just been launched.*

#### **A.2. 39th session of the World Heritage Committee**

22. ICOMOS was represented at the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee (Bonn, 2015) by a solid delegation. The Advisory Body assisted in the preparation of the working documents for the Committee with the World Heritage Centre, and at the orientation session of the World Heritage Committee with ICCROM and IUCN.
23. It presented its work on the evaluation of nominations of cultural and mixed properties, on the Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value, and on the monitoring of the state of conservation of properties. It also contributed to discussions on other items on the agenda: the revision of the Operational Guidelines, Sustainable Development, the evaluation of the Global Strategy, the Policy Guidelines, pilot projects for the upstream processes as well as the second cycle of periodic reporting, notably that of Europe.
24. Meetings with States Parties and the World Heritage Centre were organised to discuss the state of conservation of properties.

#### **A.3. Nomination proposals to the World Heritage List**

25. For the 2016 cycle, ICOMOS evaluated 25 nominations to the World Heritage List, 12 minor modifications /creation of buffer zones and 7 draft statements of OUV which will be presented at the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee.
26. Strengthening of dialogue and changes in the evaluation methods were introduced by restructuring the ICOMOS Panel to include greater interdisciplinarity and cultural representativity, by delivering interim reports as prescribed by the revised Operational Guidelines and its Annex 6, and by organising on an experimental basis meetings with each nominating State Party during the ICOMOS Panel meeting.
27. Overall, ICOMOS notes that the nominations are becoming increasingly complex, and this is sometimes at the expense of the clarity or coherence of dossiers. Some nominations could benefit from a longer preparation time.

#### **A.4. Upstream processes for nominations**

28. The Africa Unit, World Heritage Centre, invited the Advisory Bodies and the AWHF to attend working sessions on upstream processes in Africa.
29. ICOMOS has provided follow-up to the decisions of the World Heritage Committee in relation to pilot projects for upstream processes identified in consultation with the States Parties.
30. ICOMOS presented a proposal for upstream process in support of new nominations at an early stage.

#### **A.5. Monitoring the State of Conservation of World Heritage properties**

31. ICOMOS prepares part of the reports on the monitoring of the state of conservation of cultural and mixed properties to be presented at the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee. It will also comment on natural properties where there are strong cultural values which it considers should be acknowledged in the management of the properties.

32. It will have carried out and prepared reports for 18 Reactive Monitoring missions for the 40th session. At the request of the States Parties, ICOMOS has also carried out 8 Advisory missions.
33. In addition, the World Heritage Centre consults with the Advisory Body on a regular basis throughout the year on problems or threats regarding properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. Additional research work has been carried out, notably via ICOMOS networks, documents have been examined and written technical reviews have been sent to the World Heritage Centre.
34. Monitoring of the state of conservation of properties is an essential activity of the World Heritage Convention and additional resources should be made available for its implementation.

#### **A.6. Periodic Reporting**

35. The Advisory Body shall participate in the activities coordinated by the World Heritage Centre to ensure a proper reflection on the third cycle for Periodic Reporting and remains at the disposal of the Regions to implement their Action Plans.

#### **A.7. Capacity-building**

36. ICOMOS contributed to the implementation of the World Heritage Strategy for the strengthening of the capacities elaborated by ICCROM and IUCN, in collaborating in the launch of a new capacity-building programme and in two workshops developed for Nordic countries and Latin American experts.
37. ICOMOS has continued its collaboration with the Category 2 Centres for the setting up of their programmes.

#### **A.8. International Assistance**

38. ICOMOS has considered all the requests for International Assistance for cultural and mixed properties that were submitted to it and participated in the Panels that examined these requests.

#### **A.9. Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value**

39. ICOMOS has studied and reviewed all the Retrospective Statements of OUV which were submitted to it, in accordance with the timetable for this set by the World Heritage Committee. The review of statements from the Europe and North America region has continued.

#### **A.10. Thematic studies**

40. The Advisory Body has also initiated a thematic study on the Tea Landscapes of Asia that it is planning to present at the 40<sup>th</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee.
41. The second edition of the thematic study on the Cultural heritages of water in the arid, semi-arid and Mediterranean regions of the Middle East and the Maghreb is planned for Autumn 2016.

#### **A.11. Meetings**

42. ICOMOS participated in several technical meetings organised by the World Heritage Centre.

43. ICOMOS took part in the meetings of the Advisory Bodies with the World Heritage Centre (September 2015 and January 2016), the Orientation session for Members of the World Heritage Committee on the 18th of February 2016, the meeting of the Advisory Bodies with the President of the World Heritage Committee, and meetings of the ad-hoc working group.

#### **A.12. Update of the “Gap report” and Heritage Impact Assessment**

44. At the request of the World Heritage Centre, a preliminary follow-up to the Gap Report (The World Heritage List: Filling the Gaps: an Action Plan for the future) was carried out by updating the analysis of data to the present and determining whether the identified gaps have narrowed. A one-day workshop was held at ICOMOS Headquarters on 11 December 2015 to review the preliminary outcomes of the analysis and to discuss the issues arising. As a follow-up of discussions with the African World Heritage Fund and the Advisory Bodies, more detailed analysis was undertaken for this Region.
45. A similar request was made to the Advisory Body for a study on “Heritage Impact Assessment: Management of major projects in or near World Heritage Properties. Fact finding and data collecting study”. The pursued aim of this research work was achieving a better understanding of Heritage Impact Assessments, especially in the following areas: the processes for their commissioning and execution and the related technical and administrative responsibilities, the methodologies in use and the impacts of HIAs.

### **III. REPORT ON IUCN ACTIVITIES**

#### **A.1. Introduction**

46. In view of the budgetary pressures on the World Heritage Convention’s documentation it has again been requested IUCN’s report to the Committee to be very short and synthetic. Fuller information on IUCN’s work on the World Heritage Convention is available at the following address: [www.iucn.org/worldheritage](http://www.iucn.org/worldheritage) to complement the brief report below, and IUCN is pleased to provide further information on request on any aspect of its work.
47. 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/](http://www.iucnworldconservationcongress.org/member_s_assembly/resolutions/) and the IUCN Programme is online at: [http://www.iucn.org/what/global\\_programme/](http://www.iucn.org/what/global_programme/). In addition in 2014 the once a decade IUCN World Parks Congress considered World Heritage as a cross-cutting theme and included a series of major workshops on many aspects of the Convention and its outcomes are at this link: [http://worldparkscongress.org/about/promise\\_of\\_sydney\\_innovative\\_approaches.html](http://worldparkscongress.org/about/promise_of_sydney_innovative_approaches.html). In September 2016 IUCN’s World Conservation Congress will meet in Hawai’i and World Heritage will be one of the themes discussed. See: <http://iucnworldconservationcongress.org/>
48. In 2013-14 IUCN completed an evaluation of its World Heritage Programme, and in 2014 IUCN Council approved the management response to this evaluation which was also reported verbally to the 38th session of the Committee, and is being implemented. These documents are available online at: [https://www.iucn.org/knowledge/monitoring\\_evaluation/database/all\\_iucn\\_evaluations/](https://www.iucn.org/knowledge/monitoring_evaluation/database/all_iucn_evaluations/).
49. IUCN notes that the Convention’s severe budgetary challenges continue. In line with the above IUCN motions and the IUCN Programme 2013-16, the work of the 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 amongst this work include the (a) development of the IUCN World Heritage Outlook which was launched at the World Heritage Committee in 2014, (b) proactive initiatives to promote work on possible priorities for World Heritage nominations (in line with the spirit of the "upstream process"), (c) strengthening of IUCN's regional capacity and diversity in both its secretariat, and its expert networks, (d) work on the consideration of rights based approaches in relation to World Heritage Sites, and the benefits they provide to local communities and indigenous peoples and (e) ensuring the relevance of World Heritage to wider conservation and sustainable development initiatives, notably in relation to the contribution to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and its agreed Programme of Work on Protected Areas. In the course of 2014 IUCN 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, under the title. "A Brighter Outlook for World Heritage". IUCN notes that whilst it has mobilised this additional support, this funding is not available to support statutory work advising the World Heritage Committee, which is expected to be supported by the World Heritage Fund. IUCN continues to consider that the current workload in this regard is unsustainable, and has 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.

50. IUCN acknowledges with thanks continued and strengthening 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 whose support our work would not be possible.

#### **A.2. 39th session of the World Heritage Committee**

51. IUCN attended the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee with a diverse and effective delegation and contributed fully in all relevant items of the Committee's business, together with the working groups on the *Operational Guidelines* and the budget.

#### **A.3. Nominations to the World Heritage List**

52. IUCN completed evaluations of all natural and mixed nominations, and presented its recommendations to the 39th Session of the World Heritage Committee in line with the requirements of the *Operational Guidelines*. This work is also on track for the 40th Session. Commentary on these matters is provided in the introduction to IUCN's evaluation report (item 8B), including changes to the IUCN World Heritage Panel, implementation of dialogue during the evaluation process, and increased partnership working with ICOMOS on nature/culture linkages. IUCN notes concern at the lack of adequate resources for the effective implementation of the upstream process, and the risk that this will distort further the imbalance in the World Heritage List.

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

53. IUCN led the drafting of the majority of SOC reports on natural properties presented to the 39th Session, and to be presented at the 40th Session of the World Heritage Committee.
54. 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. The second IUCN World Heritage Outlook report will be made in 2017.

#### **A.5. Periodic Reporting**

55. IUCN has contributed fully to the continued programme of Periodic Reporting in all regions, and this input and further plans will be considered under the relevant items of the Committee's agenda. IUCN is maintaining its partnership with the Arab Regional Centre – World Heritage (ARC-WH) to support natural heritage in the Arab States, and with the African World Heritage Fund, with a particular focus on World Heritage in West and Central Africa. IUCN maintains focal points for World Heritage in all of its regional offices, although most require significant additional resources to be able to meet the demands for support.

#### **A.6. Capacity-Building for World Heritage**

56. Funding for capacity building by IUCN was cut in 2012 due to budgetary restraints in UNESCO, and remains at zero in the current biennium, but IUCN, working in partnership with ICCROM are making progress on mobilising resources with the particular support of Norway and Switzerland. Capacity building will be further discussed under the relevant item on the Committee's agenda, and is discussed more fully in ICCROM's report.

#### **A.7. Resource Manuals**

57. IUCN has continued to contribute to the future programme for review of the resource manuals, and for translation.

#### **A.8. International Assistance**

58. IUCN reviewed and advised on all International Assistance (IA) requests as required, and participated in the IA Panel.

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

59. IUCN has completed the review of all retrospective Statements of OUV requested in line with the agreed priorities of the World Heritage Committee.

#### **A.10. Thematic Studies**

60. IUCN has embarked on a number of thematic studies with extra budgetary support. Studies on the High Seas and Arctic marine sites are being undertaken in partnership with the World Heritage Centre, and external partners, and are also reported on in the WH Centre's report on thematic programmes. A study on wilderness and large landscapes is being led by IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas, and IUCN has commissioned an update of its thematic study on volcanoes, as previously requested by the World Heritage Committee. IUCN is also completing a study on the overlaps between World Heritage Sites and UNESCO's other site based designations (Biosphere Reserves and Global Geoparks) and with Ramsar Wetland sites, in view of the potential synergies and issues that need to be considered where such designations overlap.

#### **A.11. The General Assembly**

61. IUCN participated as an observer at the 20<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention, and welcomes in particular the adoption of the new sustainable development policy (to which IUCN contributed) and will be working to devise implementation mechanisms for this.

#### **A.12. Other Technical Meetings**

62. IUCN has participated in and/or organised jointly with the other Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre, the series of orientation sessions and awareness raising sessions, together with internal coordination meetings, and has participated in the meetings of the Ad-hoc working group on request. Further information can be provided on request.

### **IV. DRAFT DECISION**

#### **Draft Decision: 40 COM 5B**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/5B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **39 COM 5B** adopted at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015),*
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.*