



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

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

World Heritage

41 COM

WHC/17/41.COM/5B

Paris, 19 May 2017

Original: English

**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Forty-first session

**Krakow, Poland
2 – 12 July 2017**

**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 40th session of the World Heritage Committee, as follows:

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

Draft Decision: 41 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 2016 to March 2017. 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), Eisuke Nishikawa (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 professionals from Member States to build capacity 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. 40th session of the World Heritage Committee

2. ICCROM attendance at the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee was led by the Director-General, Stefano De Caro, and included Joseph King, Gamini Wijesuriya, Akiko Umezu and Zaki Aslan. In addition, ICCROM participated in a number of meetings and activities in preparation of the 40th and 41st sessions of the Committee, including a World Heritage Information meeting (UNESCO, June 2016) and meetings of the Advisory Bodies and World Heritage Centre (UNESCO, October 2016 and February 2017).

A.3. Nominations to the World Heritage List

3. Taking note of Committee Decision **39 COM 13A** paragraph 9, ICCROM was invited by ICOMOS for a second year on an experimental basis, to attend the ICOMOS World Heritage Evaluation Panel as a non-voting member. ICCROM was represented by Joseph King at the panel meetings in November 2016 and March 2017. ICCROM and ICOMOS will evaluate this practice and inform the Committee accordingly.

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

4. ICCROM has been involved in the preparation of State of conservation reports for the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee. Towards this end, ICCROM was tasked with 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 State of conservation reports that took place in April and May 2017. ICCROM participated in joint Reactive Monitoring missions to five World Heritage properties, the Royal Palaces of Abomey in Benin, the Palace of Westminster and Westminster Abbey including Saint Margaret's Church in the UK, the Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu in Peru, Bahla Fort in Oman, and Kathmandu Valley in Nepal.

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, and

continues to work with regional partners on the development of regional or sub-regional capacity-building strategies and activities. As the Periodic Reporting process is in a reflection year between the end of the second cycle and the beginning of the third cycle, ICCROM took part in 3 meetings of the Expert Group for the Periodic Reporting Reflection Period. In this capacity, ICCROM worked with the expert group on the improvement of the questionnaire, and in particular worked with the preparatory working groups to review draft versions of the Questionnaire and clarify specific questions both before and after the meetings. ICCROM also worked on issues related to capacity building within the Periodic Reporting process. The 3 meetings that ICCROM attended took place in Paris, France, in June, September and December 2016.

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 the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy. In the past year, a new programme was developed by ICCROM and IUCN with the financial support of the Ministry of Climate and Environment of Norway. The new programme, *World Heritage Leadership*, will focus on interlinkages in the management of cultural and natural heritage. The programme will be carried out in cooperation with ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre.
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 African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region in China (WHITR-AP), the 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.
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, the Master in World Natural Heritage Management at the Trento School of Management, and the Masters in World Heritage and Cultural Projects for Development at the Turin School of Development (part of the ILO International Training Centre). ICCROM is also working with Tsukuba University in Japan 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 World Heritage Orientation Sessions, as requested by Committee members. Orientation sessions include those linked to the World Heritage Information Meetings organized in UNESCO Headquarters prior to the session and those linked to the opening of the World Heritage Committee session. ICCROM is also responsible for organizing the Advisory Body space at the World Heritage Committee meetings. This space is used for information sharing and discussion on a number of key issues of interest to those people attending Committee sessions.
11. For more information on capacity building activities, see document *WHC/17/41.COM/6*.

A.7. Resource Manuals

12. ICCROM continues to promote the translation of the World Heritage Resource Manuals into languages useful to those responsible for the protection of World Heritage properties. In addition, ICCROM promotes the use of these manuals through its courses and other capacity building activities. The new World Heritage Leadership programme foresees the future revision of two manuals, *Managing Cultural World Heritage* and *Managing Natural World Heritage* into a single volume *Managing World Heritage*. Furthermore, the manual on *Managing Disaster Risk for World Heritage* will be revised to include more attention to disaster risk management at natural World Heritage properties.

A.8. International Assistance

13. ICCROM reviewed and advised on all International Assistance requests made by States Parties for cultural and mixed properties, and participated in two International Assistance Panel meetings during the year.

A.9. Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value

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

A.10. Policy Guidelines

15. Following a request by the World Heritage Committee in Decision **37 COM 13**, ICCROM was requested to carry out a scoping study for Policy Guidelines for the World Heritage Committee. ICCROM completed its work on the scoping study for Policy Guidelines in 2016, in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and the other Advisory Bodies and presented the results to the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee. The World Heritage Centre will now commence the development of the recommended Policy Compendium and ICCROM will continue to work with the Centre and other Advisory Bodies as part of this process.

A.11 Post-Conflict Recovery

16. At a time when significant archaeological treasures in the Middle East are threatened by tragic current events, ICCROM-ATHAR, in partnership with the Louvre-Lens Museum, co-organised a colloquium on 20–21 January 2017 on the theme of endangered heritage. The event brought together specialists from international organisations including the European Commission, the World Bank, UNESCO, ICOMOS, ALECSO, IRCICA, and the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, as well as representatives from several governments and universities in France, Europe, and the Middle East. This colloquium, based on first-hand regional and international experiences, provided an opportunity for participants to discuss approaches towards heritage reconstruction by comparing examples from different time periods and regions. Recovery, reconstruction, or reconstitution of a destroyed heritage asset poses technical, scientific, and methodological questions, along with ethical, economic and political ones. The colloquium discussed various viewpoints on post-conflict reconstruction and the work of International Organizations. A number of presentations focused on the role of development agencies in reconstruction processes and strategy development for areas emerging from armed conflict. The proceedings of this workshop will be published in 2017.

A.12 Other Technical Meetings

17. Over the course of the year, ICCROM has participated in a number of other technical meetings called by the World Heritage Centre and/or States Parties. Those that ICCROM attended include a workshop on the operationalization of the new World Heritage Sustainable Development Strategy held on the island of Vilm in Germany and a meeting on Effective Involvement of Local Communities in the Management of Cultural Heritage held in Abomey, Benin.

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 implementation of the World Heritage Convention is facing.
19. 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/images/Terms_of_reference_Panel_EN.pdf
20. 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 following the meeting with the Director-General 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.
21. ICOMOS considers that the strengthening of dialogue with States Parties within the framework of the Upstream Process and Advisory Missions could, in the long term, ensure a more representative World Heritage List.
22. 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.
23. IUCN and ICOMOS have strengthened their cooperation in the evaluation and state of conservation 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*, of which the results were presented at the 39th session of the Committee and the second phase of which will be completed in May 2017.

A.2. 40th session of the World Heritage Committee

24. ICOMOS was represented at the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) by a solid delegation. The Advisory Body assisted in the preparation of the working documents for the Committee with the World Heritage Centre and participated in the orientation session of the World Heritage Committee with ICCROM and IUCN.
25. 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 Policy Guidelines, Upstream Process as well as Periodic reporting.

26. Side events were organized on the following topics: Serial Nominations and Challenges of Reconstruction.
27. 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

28. For the 2017 cycle, ICOMOS evaluated 30 nominations to the World Heritage List, 11 minor modifications and 7 provisional statements of OUV which will be presented at the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee.
29. 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 their Annex 6, and by organising, on an experimental basis, meetings with each nominating State Party during the ICOMOS Panel meeting.
30. As last year, ICCROM has been invited to attend the ICOMOS Panel meeting, as an observer.
31. 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 Process for nominations

32. ICOMOS attended the two regional workshops (Togo, December 2016, and Kenya, January 2017) organised by the AWHF within the framework of the African World Heritage Nomination Support Programme.
33. ICOMOS has provided follow-up to the decisions of the World Heritage Committee in relation to pilot projects for Upstream Process identified in consultation with the States Parties, and in relation to referred back nominations.
34. The Advisory Bodies took part in a coordination meeting with the World Heritage Centre on the implementation of the Upstream Process (February 2017).

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

35. ICOMOS prepares part of the reports on the monitoring of the state of conservation of cultural and mixed properties to be presented at the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee. It will comment on natural properties where there are strong cultural values which it considers should be acknowledged in the management of the properties.
36. It will have carried out and prepared reports for 14 Reactive Monitoring missions for the 41st session. At the request of the States Parties, ICOMOS will also have carried out 12 Advisory Missions.
37. In addition, the World Heritage Centre consults with ICOMOS 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.

38. 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

39. ICOMOS participated actively 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

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

A.8. International Assistance

42. ICOMOS has reviewed all the requests for International Assistance for cultural and mixed properties that fell within its remit and participated in the Panel meetings that examined these requests.

A.9. Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value

43. ICOMOS has studied and reviewed all the submitted Retrospective Statements of OUV, in accordance with the timetable set by the World Heritage Committee.

A.10. Thematic Studies

44. ICOMOS has also initiated a thematic study on the Tea Landscapes of Asia that it is planning to finalize by the end of 2017.
45. 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 June 2017.

A.11. Meetings

46. ICOMOS participated in several technical meetings organised by the World Heritage Centre.
47. ICOMOS took part in the meetings of the Advisory Bodies with the World Heritage Centre (October 2016 and February 2017), the meeting of the Advisory Bodies with the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee and meetings of the ad-hoc working group.
48. ICOMOS and IUCN worked in partnership on a joint Nature-Culture Journey at the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress in Honolulu, Hawaii. In addition to strengthening collegial networks among natural and cultural heritage professionals, a road map was proposed to improve the practice in the future through better recognition of the interlinkages of nature and culture.

A.12. Sustainable development

49. ICOMOS attended the meeting on *World Heritage and sustainable development – From Policy to Action* organised by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Vilm, 14-17 November 2016) where the policy was discussed with regards to the Advisory Bodies' work and their support to the processes of the World Heritage Convention and the States Parties.
50. As part of ICOMOS' efforts related to the United Nations Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development (incorporating the Sustainable Development Goals - SDGs), in particular the Heritage Target (SDG 11.4), ICOMOS, with the support of ICOMOS Turkey, organized an international coordination meeting in Istanbul on 4-5 February 2017 with the aim of coordinating and mobilizing ICOMOS activities and of key partners in the 2017-18 cycle towards advancing the cause of 'heritage as a driver of sustainability' by shaping strategies towards mainstreaming cultural heritage within the larger environmental and sustainable development discourse and allowing the exchange of information and ideas related to the SDGs.

A.13. Post-Trauma Recovery

51. Following Decision **39 COM 7** and responding to the request of the World Heritage Committee (Decision **40 COM7**, Istanbul/UNESCO 2016): 'more in-depth reflection is needed on reconstruction within World Heritage properties as a complex multi-disciplinary process, and that consideration should be given to developing new guidance to reflect the multi-faceted challenges that reconstruction brings, its social and economic context, the short and long-term needs of properties, and the idea of reconstruction as a process that should be undertaken within the framework of the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the properties', ICOMOS organized in September 2016 an international workshop on reconstruction of World Heritage properties.
52. The outcomes of the conference allowed to start work on the elaboration of a Guidance on Post-Trauma Recovery and Reconstruction of World Heritage properties (available on ICOMOS website at the following address <http://openarchive.icomos.org/1763/>)
53. This document should be considered as provisional and ICOMOS will continue to work with all relevant stakeholders towards the elaboration of guiding principles on reconstruction, to be presented to the World Heritage Committee.

III. REPORT ON IUCN ACTIVITIES

A.1. Introduction

54. In view of the continued budgetary pressures, it has again been requested for IUCN's reports to the Committee to be very short and synthetic. Fuller information on IUCN's work on the World Heritage Convention is available at www.iucn.org/worldheritage to complement the brief report below, and IUCN is pleased to provide further information upon request on any aspect of its work. The IUCN World Heritage Programme has been fully revised during 2016.
55. By way of background, the attention of the Committee is drawn to IUCN's policy base of resolutions (<https://portals.iucn.org/library/resrec/search/>) and the IUCN Programme (<https://www.iucn.org/about/programme-work-and-reporting/programme>). The position adopted by the 2014 IUCN World Parks Congress also remains relevant and can be consulted at

http://worldparkscongress.org/about/promise_of_sydney_innovative_approaches.html.

IUCN's World Conservation Congress met in Hawai'i in September 2016, and UNESCO and IUCN worked closely together to promote the relevance of World Heritage through a Congress edition of the World Heritage Review (April 2016: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/review/79/>). The Congress programme included a wide range of events within the World Heritage Journey, and a linked Nature-Culture Journey, organised jointly with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM. See: <http://iucnworldconservationcongress.org/>. Resolutions adopted at the Congress notably strengthened IUCN's continued commitment to the protection of World Heritage properties from damaging industrial activity, in support of the position of the World Heritage Committee.

56. IUCN further recalls it is working within the IUCN Council-approved management response to the evaluation of the IUCN World Heritage Programme, as reported to the 38th session of the Committee. The relevant documents remain available online at: <https://www.iucn.org/monitoring-and-evaluation/monitoring-our-work/evaluations-database>.
57. IUCN notes that the Convention's severe budgetary challenges continue. 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 (a) the development of the IUCN World Heritage Outlook and the preparation of the second report to be launched in late 2017, (b) proactive initiatives to promote work on possible priorities for World Heritage nominations (in line with the spirit of the "Upstream Process"), (c) the strengthening of IUCN's regional capacity and diversity in both its secretariat and its expert network (d) the 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 (CBD) and its agreed Programme of Work on Protected Areas. The role of the World Heritage Convention in leading practice to connect the conservation of cultural and natural heritage is becoming a further significant focus for the future of the Programme, and the Nature-Culture Journey at IUCN's Hawai'i Congress is leading to exciting and diverse potentials. The IUCN-ICOMOS partnership on Connecting Practice, with The Christensen Fund, the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment, and site activity in a number of States Parties has provided a foundation for this work. A major new agreement between IUCN, ICCROM and Norway on capacity building, signed in Hawai'i is also enabling the scaling up of this effort, as noted below.
58. 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 remains of the view that the large annual Committee meeting remains out of sync with the need to reprioritise funding towards the following-up of Committee decisions and the increased dialogue in the evaluation and monitoring processes of the Convention.
59. IUCN acknowledges the 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. 40th session of the World Heritage Committee

60. IUCN attended the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee, at both of its meetings in 2016, 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

61. IUCN completed evaluations of all natural and mixed nominations and presented its recommendations to the 40th Session of the World Heritage Committee, in line with the requirements of the *Operational Guidelines*. This work is also on track for the 41st session. Commentary on these matters is provided in the introduction to IUCN's evaluation report (item 8B) and in items related to mixed sites and the implementation of the Upstream Process. IUCN notes with concern the lack of adequate resources for the effective implementation of the Upstream Process, and the risk that this will further distort the imbalance in the World Heritage List.

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

62. IUCN was tasked with the drafting of the majority of SOC reports on natural properties presented at the 40th Session and to be presented at the 41st Session of the World Heritage Committee.
63. 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 in November 2014. This is the most significant new contribution by IUCN to the Convention and will provide the hub for IUCN's future World Heritage Programme. The second IUCN World Heritage Outlook report will be issued in November 2017.

A.5. Periodic Reporting

64. IUCN has contributed fully, and primarily from its own resources, to the continued programme of Periodic Reporting, including the reflection on the second cycle and activities in all regions, and this input and further plans will be considered under the relevant items of the Committee's agenda. IUCN has continued its partnership with the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) to support natural heritage in the Arab States, and with the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), 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

65. Funding for capacity building by IUCN was cut in 2012 due to budgetary restraints in UNESCO, and remains at zero in the current biennium; thus, the commitment from IUCN to this effort relies on extra budgetary fundraising. In this regard a major result of 2016 has been the agreement of a new and important six-year programme, entitled World Heritage Leadership, founded on the idea of linking the conservation of nature and culture. This programme will be implemented jointly by IUCN and ICCROM, in collaboration with WHC and ICOMOS, and the programme as a whole has foundational

support from Norway with support for specific activities from Switzerland. Inclusion of a range of other partners in this effort, including other States Parties, relevant universities, category 2 centres civil society and private sector partners is foreseen in building the programme. Capacity building will be further discussed under the relevant item on the Committee's agenda and further information is also provided in ICCROM's report.

A.7. Resource Manuals

66. IUCN has continued to contribute to the future programme for review of the resource manuals and their translation. Current editions of the manuals gained visibility at the IUCN World Conservation Congress through display and digital access. The World Heritage Leadership Programme anticipates enabling the complete update and merging of the currently separate manuals on managing cultural and natural World Heritage, and an update on the manual on Disaster Risk Management. It may also enable work towards a new manual on Impact Assessment.

A.8. International Assistance

67. IUCN reviewed and advised on all International Assistance (IA) requests that fell within its remit and participated in the IA Panel.

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

68. IUCN has completed the review of submitted retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value requested in line with the agreed priorities of the World Heritage Committee. IUCN has also reviewed, to the extent possible the provisional Statements of OUV for properties inscribed at the 40th session, but notes that in some cases, it has not yet been possible to reconcile these statements with the requirements of the *Operational Guidelines*.

A.10. Thematic Studies and Other Initiatives

69. In the course of 2016-2017, IUCN made significant progress on a number of thematic and technical studies with extra-budgetary support. At the time of finalisation of this report (mid-March 2017) a study on World Heritage and the High Seas is complete and launched (August 2016: <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/46206>) and a workshop report on Arctic marine sites is being finalised for launch in April 2017. Both of these studies were undertaken in partnership with the World Heritage Centre and external partners. A thematic study on wilderness and large landscapes, supported by the Pew Foundation and The Christensen Fund is complete and will be launched by IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas before the 41st session of the Committee. The update of the IUCN thematic study on volcanoes, as previously requested by the World Heritage Committee, is progressing and funding is under discussion, but not confirmed, for both the completion of this study and the commissioning of a revision of the thematic study on Earth Heritage. IUCN completed a study entitled, "Managing Multi-Internationally Designated Areas" (September 2016: <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/46176>), supported by Korea and the Jeju Special Self-governing Province on the overlaps between World Heritage sites, UNESCO's other site-based designations (Biosphere Reserves and Global Geoparks) and Ramsar Wetland sites, in view of the potential synergies and issues that need to be considered where such designations overlap. A meeting and report on the link with Sustainable Development was organised with the support of the German Nature Conservation Agency, BfN, and in partnership with the other Advisory Bodies, and WHC. IUCN has

also supported work led by other partners, such as on forest loss and land cover change in World Heritage Sites.

70. A major success of the IUCN World Conservation Congress was the Heritage Heroes awards, which raised awareness through online voting of five individuals working in three sites on different continents and allowed them to share experiences with delegates in Hawai'i.
71. The establishment of the IUCN World Heritage Outlook Partners, launched at the 40th session of the Committee, brings together civil society organisations to boost conservation efforts on the ground in sites facing major threats, and with a number of conservation organisations (Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Zoological Society of London (ZSL), Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS), African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) and BirdLife at the time of finalisation of this report) as confirmed partners. Successful efforts to increase civil society engagement in the Convention are also exemplified by uptake of IUCN's knowledge in third-party reports, such as WWF's report [Protecting people through nature](#) (April 2016).
72. Within IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas, a World Heritage Specialist Network is being established to better identify and access its pool of expertise.

A.11. Other Technical Meetings

73. 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 as requested. Further information can be provided upon request.

IV. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision: 41 COM 5B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/5B,*
2. *Takes note with appreciation of the reports of the Advisory Bodies (ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN) on their activities;*
3. *Also takes note of the progress made as well as of the challenges and gaps identified by the Advisory Bodies in the framework of the implementation of the Convention.*