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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

Forty-second session

**Manama, Bahrain
24 June–4 July 2018**

**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 41st session of the World Heritage Committee, as follows:

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

Draft Decision: 42 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 2017 to March 2018. ICCROM support to the Committee during this period has been provided principally by the Sites Unit, with collaboration from other ICCROM staff, all under the direction of ICCROM Director-General. Members of the ICCROM network also contribute to support these activities. In addition to its direct work on the Convention, ICCROM also had a programme until the end of 2017 within its own Programme and Budget entitled, "Improving Conservation and Management Practices through the World Heritage Convention". This programme provided capacity building for professionals from Member States 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. In 2017, ICCROM and IUCN also began a new capacity building programme entitled World Heritage Leadership (see more information below).

A.2. 41st session of the World Heritage Committee

2. ICCROM attended the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee. In addition, ICCROM participated in a number of meetings and activities in preparation of the 41st and 42nd sessions of the Committee including a World Heritage Information meeting (Paris, May 2017), meetings of the Advisory Bodies and World Heritage Centre (Cambridge, October 2017; Paris, January 2018) and 21st session of the General assembly of States Parties (Paris, November 2017). ICCROM has also attended, where appropriate meeting of the Ad-Hoc Working Group of the World Heritage Committee. In some cases, ICCROM has been represented at these meetings by IUCN or ICOMOS.

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, to attend the ICOMOS World Heritage Evaluation Panel as a non-voting member. ICCROM was represented by Joseph King at the panel meetings in March 2017 and November 2017. Due to budget constraints in 2018 related to exchange rate fluctuations, ICCROM did not take part in the second panel in March 2018.

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 42nd 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 three drafting meetings for SOC reports that took place in April and May 2017 and March 2018. ICCROM participated in joint reactive monitoring missions to four World Heritage properties, Bahla Fort in Oman, Kathmandu Valley in Nepal, the Historical Monuments of Mtskheta, Georgia, and the Island of Mozambique, Mozambique. ICCROM also participated in an Advisory Mission to Lamu, Kenya.

A.5. Periodic Reporting

5. ICCROM continues to participate actively when requested in activities of the Periodic Reporting process, and in particular, the activities related to the reflection on the second cycle and preparation of the third cycle. ICCROM looks forward to working with the regions that are now beginning the 3rd cycle of Periodic Reporting.

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 implementation of the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy. *World Heritage Leadership*, developed by ICCROM and IUCN with the financial support of the Ministry of Climate and Environment of Norway is currently in implementation. The programme focuses on the interlinkages in management of cultural and natural heritage. The programme is 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 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. ICCROM attends annual meetings of the Category 2 Centres, as well as larger annual meetings which include the Category 2 Centres, UNESCO Chairs, and the UNITWIN network.
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 requested by Committee members. Orientation sessions include those linked to the World Heritage Information Meetings in Paris in June 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/18/42.COM/6.

A.7. Resource Manuals

12. The World Heritage Leadership programme has begun work on the integration of the two manuals, *Managing Cultural World Heritage* and *Managing Natural World Heritage* into a single web based platform, which will provide integrated approaches to management of World Heritage. Preliminary work has begun to revise the manual on disaster risk management at 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 with the World Heritage Convention.

A.10. Policy Compendium

15. Although it prepared the scoping study for the Policy Compendium, ICCROM was not able to attend the first meetings of the working group, the outcomes of which are outlined in Document WHC/18/42.COM/11. ICCROM remains committed, however, to the future work on the Policy Compendium.

A.11. Other Technical Meetings

16. 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. Among those that ICCROM has attended include:
 - Expert meeting in Berlin-Wannsee on the topic of the Outstanding Universal Value of Auschwitz, Berlin, April 2017;
 - Final Expert Meeting of the ICOMOS IUCN Connecting Practice project: Phase II, Paris, May 2017;
 - International expert workshop on Serial Nominations of the Maritime Silk Routes, London, May 2017;
 - International Congress on the World Heritage of the CIS Countries, Moscow, October 2017;
 - Working meeting on the use of criterion vi, Paris, November 2017;
 - Culture-Nature Journey as a part of the ICOMOS General Assembly, New Delhi, December 2017;
 - Meeting on HIA and EIA held by the World Heritage Centre, Paris, December 2017.

II. REPORT ON ICOMOS ACTIVITIES

A.1. Introduction

17. ICOMOS reaffirms its commitment to serve the World Heritage Committee and to assist it to address the challenges that the World Heritage Convention is facing.
18. ICOMOS gratefully acknowledges the spirit of collaboration which generally prevails between the Advisory Bodies, UNESCO and the States Parties, and also the value of the work that is carried out jointly with ICCROM, IUCN and other partner organisations.

A.2. 41st session of the World Heritage Committee

19. ICOMOS was represented at the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee (Krakow, 2017). 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.

20. ICOMOS presented its work on the monitoring of the state of conservation of properties and on the evaluation of nominations of cultural and mixed properties, as well as on the Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value. It also contributed to discussions on other items on the agenda: the revision of the *Operational Guidelines*, Sustainable Development, the Policy Guidelines, Upstream processes as well as the Periodic reporting.
21. Side events were organized on the following topics: Connecting practice, World Heritage and Human Rights, Sustainable Development and Post trauma recovery and reconstruction.
22. Meetings with States Parties and the World Heritage Centre were organized to discuss the state of conservation of properties.

A.3. Nomination proposals to the World Heritage List

23. For the 2018 cycle, ICOMOS evaluated 23 nominations to the World Heritage List, 4 referred back nominations, 7 minor modifications/creation of buffer zones and 7 provisional statements of OUV which will be presented at the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee.
24. The new arrangements for dialogue with States Parties have continued to be fruitful in clarifying issues as well as being helpful for elucidating facts. However, what this process has highlighted is the fact that, even though a State Party may receive advice from ICOMOS earlier than previously, there is still limited time available under the current evaluation timetable established by the Operational Guidelines for both parties to work together to resolve more major issues with a dossier that may require reformulation, even if the State Party expresses a willingness to do so.
25. ICOMOS recalls working document WHC/14/38.COM/9A which mentions the “option of extending the evaluation process by 12 months to allow for improved and constructive dialogue between stakeholders, in the light of the outcomes of the Director General’s meeting ‘World Heritage Convention: Thinking ahead’” and would like to see further exploration on the possibility of an extension of the calendar for the evaluation of nominations by 12 months, in some circumstances to allow greater time not only for dialogue but also for its effective implementation.
26. 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 41st session of the Committee and of which the second phase has been completed in November 2017. A third phase on biocultural practices is currently launched.

A.4. Upstream Process for nominations and Tentative Lists

27. ICOMOS has been active in extending its collaboration with States Parties on upstream work, advice work and on the development of Tentative Lists.
28. At the invitation of the State Party of Kenya, ICOMOS advised on the methodological approach to revise the nomination of Thimlich Ohinga Cultural Landscape in accordance with the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee **39 COM 8B.8**, within the framework of the Upstream Process.
29. In response to Committee decision **39 COM 8B.9** regarding the nomination of the Nyero and other hunter-gatherer rock art sites in Eastern Uganda, ICOMOS has undertaken a detailed review of the comparative analysis prepared by the State Party and agreed upon to assist in a regional approach to explore the possibility of a trans-boundary rock art nomination.

30. ICOMOS attended several consultation meetings with the African World Heritage Fund relating to the African World Heritage Nomination Support Programme.
31. 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.
32. ICOMOS took part in a coordination meeting with the World Heritage Centre and other Advisory Bodies on the implementation of the Upstream process (October 2017 and January 2018).
33. ICOMOS was invited by States Parties to carry out three upstream processes for properties included on Tentative Lists and advised States Parties on the nomination strategy for two serial transnational nominations.
34. In response to the invitation of Georgia, ICOMOS advised on the revision of the State Party's Tentative List. This took the form of an analysis of three priority properties, a proposed approach for a specific thematic nomination and participation at a workshop together with IUCN and the World Heritage Centre.
35. ICOMOS notes as a general observation that a preliminary review of State Party Tentative Lists by the Advisory Bodies, as part of the upstream process, is potentially of great assistance in identifying properties that are more likely to be assessed as having OUV and therefore result in successful nominations. It respectfully suggests to the Committee that States Parties be encouraged to defer proceeding with the preparation of nomination dossiers until after such a preliminary review has been undertaken.

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

36. ICOMOS contributes to reports on the monitoring of the state of conservation of cultural and mixed properties to be presented at the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee.
37. ICOMOS will have carried out and prepared reports for 7 Reactive Monitoring missions for the 42nd session. At the request of the States Parties, ICOMOS will also have carried out 17 Advisory missions.
38. ICOMOS advised a number of the States Parties on the preparation of the respective management plans.
39. 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.
40. As the number of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List continues to rise, so too do the number of threats and issues that need to be addressed. ICOMOS notes that as only a very small proportion of inscribed properties can be covered by SOC reports, more and more issues have to be addressed outside the Committee.

A.6. Periodic Reporting

41. The Advisory Body 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

42. ICOMOS contributed to the implementation of the World Heritage Leadership programme coordinated by ICCROM and IUCN, in attending a course on “Linking Nature and Culture in World Heritage Site Management”, held in Norway (June 2017) and a workshop on revising the World Heritage management manuals, held at IUCN (January 2018).
43. ICOMOS has continued its collaboration with the Category 2 Centres for the setting up of their programmes and has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the African World Heritage Fund and the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage.

A.8. International Assistance

44. 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

45. ICOMOS has studied and reviewed Retrospective Statements of OUV which were submitted to it, in accordance with the timetable for this set by the World Heritage Committee.

A.10. Policy Compendium

46. The Advisory Body took part in the working group of experts convened by the World Heritage Centre to work on a draft Policy Compendium (review of a compilation of policies, discussion of the methodology and approach to be taken as well as the structure of the document).

A.11. Thematic Studies

47. ICOMOS Discussion paper on the Evaluations of World Heritage Nominations related to Sites Associated with Memories of Recent Conflicts: In response to concerns that a number of World Heritage nominations might be submitted in the near future related to sites associated with memories of comparatively recent conflicts, and in the absence of clear parameters for how such sites relate to the World Heritage Convention, ICOMOS has drafted a discussion paper on “Evaluations of World Heritage Nominations related to Sites Associated with Memories of Recent Conflicts”. This offers an ICOMOS perspective on the evaluation of such sites in relation to the World Heritage Convention and past decisions of the World Heritage Committee. It is available on the ICOMOS website. Further details are provided in Document 5A, together with an associated draft decision.
48. The Advisory Body has finalized and is currently working on several thematic studies as follows:
 - The second edition of *Cultural Heritages of Water in the Middle-East and the Maghreb* is available https://www.icomos.org/images/DOCUMENTS/World_Heritage/CH%20of%20water_201507_opt.pdf
 - Second volume of the Study on Heritage Sites of Astronomy and Archaeoastronomy in the context of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention is available <http://openarchive.icomos.org/1856/>
 - *Tea Landscapes of Asia* would be ready for the 42 COM.

- Rock Art in South-East Asia, as part of a series on rock art in the World Heritage context will be ready by the end of 2018.

A.12. Meetings

49. ICOMOS participated in several technical meetings organised by the World Heritage Centre.
50. ICOMOS took part in the meetings of the Advisory Bodies with the World Heritage Centre (October 2017 and January 2018), the meeting of the Advisory Bodies with the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, and meetings of the ad-hoc working group.
51. The Advisory Body will take part in the meetings organized in relation to the 42nd session of the Committee (Information and Orientation) and the Site Managers Forum.
52. ICOMOS and IUCN worked in partnership on a joint Culture-Nature Journey at the 19th ICOMOS General Assembly held in New Delhi, India in December 2017. Discussions throughout the Culture-Nature Journey reflected the symposium's theme of "Heritage and Democracy", including the recognition of the importance of equity and respect between peoples, other species and the spiritual realm. The Culture-Nature Journey aims to encourage activity amongst ICOMOS National Committees and International Scientific Committees and IUCN Commissions which features collaboration between IUCN and ICOMOS and stimulates debate and the generation of new methodologies, institutional practices and case studies.

A.13. Climate change and Sustainable development

53. ICOMOS attended the expert workshop on World Heritage and Climate Change – Towards the update of the "Policy Document on the Impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties" organised by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (Vilm, 16-20 October 2017). The expert group was tasked to discuss the implementation to date of the 2007 policy document, the potential contents of an updated policy and to provide inputs to the further process. The results of the workshop include a set of recommendations which should be understood as an early input into a broader process to update the policy.
54. ICOMOS has constituted a working group on Climate Change to support the Advisory Body's input into the update of the World Heritage Committee "Policy Document on the impacts of Climate Change on World Heritage Properties" and develop an engagement programme on the topic.
55. Regarding Sustainable Development to which ICOMOS has given a priority, its devoted working group has organized side events and participated in several sessions at the recent World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur.
56. As a follow-up to the Resolution **20 GA 13** of the General Assembly of States Parties to publicize the UNESCO World Heritage and Sustainable Development policy throughout the heritage field and generate further discussion, ICOMOS experts contributed a chapter to the book *World Heritage and Sustainable Development*.

A.14. Post-Trauma Recovery and Reconstruction

57. The ICOMOS interim *Guidance note for Reconstruction in World Heritage properties* that was drafted in 2016 has now been translated into four languages. One of the aims of this guidance was to spur further discussion and prompt the collection of case studies for an ICOMOS Global Case Study Project on Reconstruction. In the past year several workshops have been organised on the analysis and assessment of individual

reconstruction cases. From these a matrix has been developed to allow for structured comparisons that could facilitate wider, shared knowledge and understanding of appropriate actions in the reconstruction and recovery processes, both for World Heritage properties and other sites. This matrix, as well as examples of case studies are hosted on the ICOMOS website and people and organisations invited to submit details of projects.

III. REPORT ON IUCN ACTIVITIES

A.1. Introduction

58. 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.
59. 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://www.worldparkscongress.org/downloads/approaches/ThemeW.pdf>.
60. IUCN further recalls it is working within the IUCN Council-approved management response to the 2013 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>.
61. 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 the report of which was launched in November 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 efforts and the Sustainable Development Goals, and in relation to the contribution to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), its agreed Programme of Work on Protected Areas and deliberations on the role of World Heritage in the post 2020 CBD Strategy. The role of the World Heritage Convention in leading practice to connect the conservation of cultural and natural heritage has become 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 and has continued to evolve as the Culture-Nature Journey at the ICOMOS General Assembly held in Delhi in December 2017. 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.
62. 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 recalls 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.

63. 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 welcomes the increase in the staff of the World Heritage Centre on natural World Heritage sites and issues. 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. 41st session of the World Heritage Committee

64. IUCN attended the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee 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

65. IUCN completed evaluations of all natural and mixed nominations and presented its recommendations to the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee, in line with the requirements of the *Operational Guidelines*. This work is also on track for the 42nd 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 continued 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

66. IUCN was tasked with the drafting of the majority of SOC reports on natural properties presented at the 41st Session and to be presented at the 42nd Session of the World Heritage Committee.
67. 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 was launched on 13th November 2017 at the meeting of the United Nations Climate Convention (UNFCCC) held in Bonn, and hosted by Fiji. A Chinese version was launched in China in January 2018. Details of all assessments are on line at: <https://www.worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org/>.

A.5. Periodic Reporting

68. 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 to the Convention.

A.6. Capacity-Building for World Heritage

69. 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 2017 IUCN has continued to implement the new and important six-year programme, entitled World Heritage Leadership, which was launched in 2016 with the founding support of Norway. The Programme is founded on the idea of linking the conservation of nature and culture, with a concern for achieving sustainable development. Implementation has accelerated in 2017 following the recruitment of a programme coordinator. 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

70. IUCN has continued to contribute to the future programme for review of the resource manuals and their translation. The World Heritage Leadership Programme has begun work towards a 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

71. 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)

72. IUCN reviewed, to the extent possible the provisional Statements of OUV for properties inscribed at the 41st session, but notes that in some cases, it has not yet been possible to reconcile these statements with the decisions of the Committee and the requirements of the *Operational Guidelines*.

A.10. Thematic Studies and Other Initiatives

73. In the course of 2017-18, IUCN made significant progress on a number of thematic and technical studies with extra-budgetary support. A thematic study on wilderness and large landscapes, supported by the Pew Charitable Trusts and The Christensen Fund was launched at 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 has been provided by the Republic of Korea to support its finalisation. This grant will also will enable commissioning of a revision of the thematic study on Earth Heritage. A meeting and report on Climate Change and World Heritage 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.

74. The establishment of the IUCN World Heritage Outlook Partners, launched at the 40th session of the Committee, brings together civil society organisations to raise conservation prospects of sites facing major threats through on-the-ground initiatives, with now seven leading conservation organisations confirmed as partners (<https://www.worldheritageoutlook.iucn.org/partners>). Efforts continue to actively recruit additional World Heritage Outlook Partners and to increase the number of site-focussed projects.
75. Within IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), a World Heritage Network has now been established to better identify and access its pool of expertise.

A.11. Other Technical Meetings

76. 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: 42 COM 5B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/18/42.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.*