

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Forty-third session

Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan
30 June – 10 July 2019

Item 10 of the Provisional Agenda: Periodic Reports

10A: Progress report on the follow-up to the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting

SUMMARY

This document presents the progress on follow-up activities and implementation of regional Action Plans of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting for Asia and the Pacific (Section I), Africa (Section II), the Arab States (Section III), Latin America and the Caribbean (Section IV) and Europe and North America (Section V). The reporting on regional activities since the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee is presented in a harmonized format.

Draft Decisions:

- **43 COM 10A.1** see Section I;
- **43 COM 10A.2** see Section II;
- **43 COM 10A.3** see Section III;
- **43 COM 10A.4** see Section IV;
- **43 COM 10A.5** see Section V.

I. FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES TO THE SECOND CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

A. Second Cycle Action Plans/Regional Programmes

i. Pacific Action Plan and Suwon Action Plan for Asia and objectives

1. In view of the region's cultural and geographical diversity as well as its physical scale, it was considered important to produce two distinct regional Action Plans to address the challenges and needs identified through Periodic Reporting. Sub-regional priorities were also identified within the regional Action Plans and led to the development of some sub-regional Action Plans.
2. The *Pacific Action Plan 2010-2015* was originally developed in 2009. Following the end of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, a revised and extended version was adopted during the final Regional Meeting for the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Pacific, held in Apia (Samoa) in September 2011. The Periodic Reporting exercise provided important additional inputs to the pre-existing Action Plan and served as a valuable mid-term check, allowing for an informed assessment of the progress accomplished, while highlighting activities that still needed to be addressed. The implementation of the first Pacific Action Plan was considered successful in many ways, as it led to first inscriptions on the World Heritage List (Federated States of Micronesia) and ratifications of the *Convention* (Timor-Leste), and a general improvement of capacities for the conservation of World Heritage properties.
3. In December 2015, a Regional Workshop was organized in Suva (Fiji) with the support of the World Heritage Fund and the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust to review the implementation of the Pacific World Heritage Action Plan 2010-2015. Representatives from Pacific Member States, regional institutions, the Advisory Bodies and UNESCO reviewed the existing Action Plan and developed the *Pacific Action Plan 2016-2020*. The revised Action Plan consists of 11 main actions, from which were derived 19 regional activities, see also <http://whc.unesco.org/document/142213>:
 - Dialogue between communities, agencies and organisations
 - Awareness building of local communities
 - Supporting successful nominations
 - Capacity development at all levels (including indigenous people)
 - Development of in-country heritage expertise
 - Partnerships (between communities, heritage agencies, regional organisations, educational institutions and NGOs)
 - Assisting communities for sustainable development through heritage-related enterprises
 - Information sharing through communication networks
 - Supporting the development and implementation of effective policies and legislation for heritage
 - Establishment of sustainable financing arrangements for the conservation of heritage
 - Sustaining on-going consultative processes
4. The *Suwon Action Plan for Asia* was adopted at the final Regional Meeting for the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in Asia, held in Suwon (Republic of Korea) in December 2011. It outlines priorities for the entire region of Asia and identifies 21 sub-regional issues that concern one or more sub-regions in Asia. Three issues of region-wide importance were identified:

- Development, review, and implementation of management plans (including visitor management)
- Disaster risk reduction and risk preparedness
- Better regional cooperation

In addition to the priority issues that are shared by all sub-regions, two others were considered priorities shared by most sub-regions in Asia:

- Community involvement
- Regional Gap Analysis and thematic studies on Tentative Lists

Thus far, the implementation of the Suwon Action Plan has been progressing steadily, despite the fact that there has been no financial support from the Regular Programme and the World Heritage Fund. Many activities were successfully implemented via extra-budgetary projects deriving directly from the Periodic Reporting exercise.

ii. Follow-up activities according to the objectives of the Pacific Action Plan and the Suwon Action Plan for Asia

5. The *Capacity Building Strategy and Associated Programmes for Asia and the Pacific* were developed by the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITR-AP) in China and adopted by the Committee at its 38th session (Doha, 2014), as a direct result of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the region and in line with a number of the priority areas identified in the Action Plans. Further to the courses organized by WHITR-AP and ICCROM on Heritage Impact Assessments (2016 “Historic City of Vigan”, Philippines), WHITR-AP and the World Heritage Centre organized a regional workshop on Heritage/Environmental Impact Assessments for the Pacific Island States on 20-28 November 2017 in Suva and Levuka, Fiji. Capacity-building activities focused on priorities identified by the Committee and raised during the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting. The capacities of heritage professionals involved in the management and monitoring of the World Heritage properties in the Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) were enhanced on management planning processes, through a regional workshop organized in cooperation with the Department of Heritage and Arts of Fiji and the Pacific Heritage Hub, with financial support by the UNESCO/Netherlands Fund-in-Trust, WHITR-AP, and the World Heritage Fund, see: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/1415/>.
6. In support of the Pacific Action Plan’s main actions ‘Dialogue between communities, agencies and organisations’, ‘Capacity development at all levels (including indigenous people)’, and ‘Development of in-country heritage expertise’, UNESCO organized the Pacific Heritage Workshop on 30 August – 1 September 2017 in Koror, Palau, in cooperation with the Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs of Palau. This workshop brought together government officials from Member States and non-self-governing territories in the Pacific that are in charge of heritage safeguarding, along with representatives of regional intergovernmental organisations, regional NGOs, Category 2 Centres in Asia and observers. Participants shared information on the progress made in implementing the Pacific World Heritage Action Plan 2016-2020; on how to promote the 2001 Underwater Cultural Heritage (UCH) Convention and the 1954 Hague Convention and its protocols among Pacific island nations; and on how to enhance capacity for heritage safeguarding with an integrated approach. Both regional and country-level activities were reviewed and a work plan for 2018-2020 has been developed, see: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/1401/>.
7. In support of the same main actions, a Reactive Monitoring mission to “Nan Madol: Ceremonial Centre of Eastern Micronesia” (Federated States of Micronesia, FSM) took place (15-25 January 2018), to provide technical support for the conservation and management of the property. The multi-disciplinary Reactive Monitoring mission team was made possible thanks to financial support from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-

Trust, within the framework of the World Heritage Programme for SIDS, see: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1787>. The mission proposed short and mid-term actions towards a road map for the removal of the property from the List of World Heritage in Danger (DSOCR), for use by the State Party and international partners. To assist the State Party, in September 2018, the U.S. Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation provided a grant to help preserve the ancient ruins of Nan Madol in the amount of US\$ 375,000. This is through the Cultural Site Research and Management Foundation in collaboration with the FSM Office of National Archives, Culture and Historic Preservation. The three main goals of the project are: (1) an invasive vegetation study, (2) a study of the siltation and hydrology of the canals, and (3) feature-by-feature documentation. The studies and research proposed for this project are necessary prerequisites towards accomplishing larger conservation goals.

8. In support of the Pacific Action Plan's main actions 'Dialogue between communities, agencies and organisations'; 'Capacity development at all levels (including indigenous people)'; 'Development of in-country heritage expertise'; and 'Supporting the development and implementation of effective policies and legislation for heritage', a detailed damage assessment of cultural heritage in Tonga was carried out following Tropical Cyclone Gita and reviewed during a meeting organized in Tonga by the UNESCO Office in Apia (16-23 June 2018), with funding from the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund.
9. Thanks to support from the UNESCO/Malaysia Funds-in-Trust, a workshop on 'Experience Sharing on Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy' was organized in Semarang, Indonesia, on 24-25 July 2018 and focused on three Heritage Cities in Southeast Asia and the Pacific (Melaka and George Town, Malaysia; Semarang Old Town, Indonesia; and Levuka Historical Port Town, Fiji). Collected information on risks and existing mitigation measures was compiled into a GIS database hosted at the Fiji National Trust, which allowed carrying out a risk assessment, towards a disaster risk reduction strategy and a heritage risk map. Stories and living memories of the community on past hazards were also collected in this process.
10. In support of the priority area 'Better regional cooperation' in Asia, a new UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust project, approved in October 2018, aims to strengthen ties between regional heritage practitioners in Malaysia and the Philippines, in an effort to revitalize connections between World Heritage site managers and museums, to enhance the public outreach and community engagement through creative industries and educational initiatives within and around World Heritage properties.
11. In support of the priority area 'Better regional cooperation' in Asia, a technical assistance project on Maritime Trade Corridor Heritage was carried out in Indonesia in 2018, with support from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust. The project included a study tour for Indonesian experts to the Netherlands in September 2018 and the organization of an international workshop in Jakarta in November 2018, to explore the conceptual framework of the Maritime Cultural Route through the mobilization of international stakeholders and partners. In support of the priority area "Regional Gap Analysis and thematic studies on Tentative Lists", the project also reviewed the Tentative List of Indonesia and developed an action plan and areas of intervention with international stakeholders.
12. In line with the priority areas 'Development, review and implementation of management plans (including visitor management)' and 'Regional Gap Analysis and thematic studies on Tentative Lists', the World Heritage Centre provided training on the mechanisms of the *World Heritage Convention*, notably regarding the nomination, conservation and management processes, as part of the International Conference on the Management and Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage towards Sustainable Development, organized on 25-28 March 2019 in Bangkok and Ayutthaya (Thailand) by the Thai

Government's Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning. Participants from the ASEAN community, and especially National Focal Points for World Heritage, were given an introduction to the upcoming Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the region of Asia and the Pacific, focusing in particular on the roles and responsibilities of all participants and the strategic implications of the exercise.

13. In 2017-2018, in line with the priority area 'Regional Gap Analysis and thematic studies on Tentative Lists', preparatory assistance was provided to support the preparation of the World Heritage nomination of "Deer Stone Monuments and Related Sites, the Heart of Bronze Age Culture" (Mongolia), thanks to support from the UNESCO/Netherlands Funds-in-Trust (funded via the World Heritage Centre's Marketplace).
14. In support of the priority area 'Better regional cooperation', a number of activities were organized in Asia to support the serial transnational World Heritage nomination process for the Silk Roads, see WHC/19/43.COM/5A for further detail:
 - A Central Asian Sub-Regional Workshop on the Development of Management Strategies for Silk Roads Corridors was organized on 3-4 October 2018 in Almaty, Kazakhstan, thanks to funding from the UNESCO/Japan FiT project 'Support for the Silk Roads World Heritage Sites in Central Asia (Phase II)'.
 - The Third Workshop on the South Asian Silk Roads Serial Transnational World Heritage Nomination Process was organized on 12 November 2018 in Xi'an, China, by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the State Administration of Cultural Heritage of China (SACH), the Xi'an Municipal People's Government and the ICOMOS International Conservation Centre in Xi'an (IICC Xi'an).
 - The Fifth Meeting of the Coordinating Committee on Serial Transnational World Heritage Nomination of the Silk Roads was organized on 4–5 December 2018 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Cluster Office in Tehran, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan and the Turkmen National Commission for UNESCO. As a special event during the 2018 year of 'Turkmenistan is the Heart of the Great Silk Road', this meeting was made possible by the UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust project "Support for the Silk Roads World Heritage Sites in Central Asia (Phase II)" and voluntary contributions to the World Heritage Fund by the Chinese and the Kazakh Governments.
 - The UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-In-Trust project "Support for the Asian Silk Roads World Heritage Serial and Transnational Nomination(s) (phase II)" was approved late 2018. The goals of the project are: (a) to provide technical and financial support to Asian countries for the organisation of field activities, training workshops and/or meetings to improve conservation and management of cultural heritage sites along the Silk Roads, including the development and implementation of an appropriate management system and coordination mechanism for the Silk Roads World Heritage, both at national and transnational levels; and (b) to initiate the continuation and further development of the ICOMOS Silk Roads Thematic Study covering Eastern Asia, with active support from the participating countries.
15. In support of the priority area 'Community involvement', the UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust project 'World Heritage, Sustainable Development and Community Involvement', established in May 2014, aims to revitalise income-generating crafts related to World Heritage conservation (e.g. production of glazed tiles, traditional wood carving) with a strong involvement of local communities. Phase I of the project was carried out at three World Heritage properties: "Ruins of the Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur" (Bangladesh), where the project was implemented by the UNESCO Office in Dhaka; "Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore" and "Historical Monuments at Makli, Thatta"

(Pakistan), where the project is implemented jointly by the Centre and the UNESCO Office in Islamabad, in co-operation with the governments of Sindh and Punjab and the Heritage Foundation in Pakistan. The final workshop of Phase I, entitled “World Heritage and Sustainable Development: the Role of Local Communities”, was organized by the Centre on 23-24 November 2017 at the National Museum in Karachi, Pakistan, in close co-operation with the UNESCO Office in Islamabad and the Department of Archaeology of the Government of Sindh Province of Pakistan. This workshop allowed participants to reflect on the implementation of the three pilot activities and their influence beyond the region, thanks to the participation of representatives from Bangladesh, Iran, Jordan, Nepal, Oman and Pakistan (see <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1765/>). A second phase of the project was approved in late April 2019 and will be launched shortly, with activities foreseen in India and Pakistan. The final report on Phase I of the project, along with further information, can be obtained from the project website: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sdci>.

B. Other regional cooperation highlights

16. The UNESCO sub-regional conference ‘World Heritage Global Strategy in the context of South Asia’ took place in Kolkata, India, on 21-22 February 2019, was jointly organized by the UNESCO office in New Delhi and the West Bengal Government of India. Over 50 governmental officials and experts from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom, and the UNESCO Category 2 Centre for World Natural Heritage Training (Deradhun, India) attended the meeting and adopted the ‘Kolkata Recommendation’ as a strategy for future implementation of the World Heritage Global Strategy in the sub-region. The Conference identified gaps in the World Heritage List while exploring the potential of the Region in the context of the World Heritage Global Strategy. The Conference also served as a platform for awareness raising on a number of important issues such as local communities, indigenous peoples, the 2015 Sustainable Development Policy, and climate change. It also highlighted a number of under-represented heritage categories in the sub-region, such as Cultural Landscapes. Overall, the Conference reinforced the capacities of South Asian State Parties in the implementation of *World Heritage Convention*.
17. The fourth phase of the UNESCO/Republic of Korea Funds-in-Trust project “Safeguarding of Koguryo Tombs in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea” was approved in December 2018 and a first World Heritage Centre mission to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) is currently being organized. This important peace-building cooperation project, which has been ongoing since 2000 and involves both countries in the Korean Peninsula, marks a milestone in international cooperation around World Heritage. This new phase will provide further opportunities for capacity building and exchange of knowledge between international experts and the specialists from the DPRK’s National Expert Team, which was created at the onset of Phase I of the project. Further information, along with the technical report on the outcomes of Phase III, can be found here: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/koguryotombs>.

C. Draft Decision: 43 COM 10A.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/10A,
2. Recalling Decision **40 COM 10B.1** adopted at its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),
3. Welcomes the progress made in the follow-up of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the region of Asia and the Pacific;
4. Thanks the Governments of Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea and United States of America for their contributions towards supporting follow-up activities to the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the region of Asia and the Pacific;
5. Takes note of the progress made on the Silk Roads nomination process, initiated by the Asian States Parties in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, also notes the strategic shift from nomination to conservation, in view of the region's growing conservation issues linked to development, and commends the fruitful international cooperation between the national institutions of various States Parties in the region;
6. Reiterates its invitation to States Parties in Asia and the Pacific to actively implement the relevant sub-regional Action Plans before the start of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting, foreseen in September 2020, and encourages them to intensify their efforts towards the implementation of follow-up activities, to be planned and developed in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, and to seek any additional means necessary to do so;
7. Further reminds States Parties who have not already done so, to submit their Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value by 1 February 2020 at the latest, as well as clarifications of boundaries by 1 December 2019 at the latest;
8. Requests the World Heritage Centre to present a progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan(s) for the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting for Asia and the Pacific region at its 45th session in 2021.

II. FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES TO THE SECOND CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING FOR AFRICA

A. Second Cycle Action Plans/Regional Programmes

i. Action Plan 2012-2017 for the Africa Region and objectives

1. The stated objectives of the Action Plan 2012-2017 for the Africa Region are:
 - I. Enhanced representation of African heritage sites on the World Heritage List
 - II. Improved state of conservation at World Heritage properties
 - III. Effective management of existing properties
 - IV. Development and implementation of strategies enabling States Parties to effectively address the challenge of balancing heritage conservation and development needs
 - V. Establishment and implementation of mechanisms for heritage conservation, protection and conflict management
2. Worldwide awareness of these objectives continues to be effectively enhanced thanks to the proclamation of African World Heritage Day by UNESCO Member States in 2015, which is celebrated annually on 5 May, see: <https://en.unesco.org/commemorations/africanheritageday>.
3. Awareness has been increased across the Continent about the importance of elaborating and implementing sustainable development strategies, with the full engagement of local communities, in direct follow-up to the Ngorongoro Declaration (June 2016). Particular focus was put on exploring ways to increase the involvement of African higher educational institutions and World Heritage experts, through integrating heritage conservation and management in their existing and future curricula and the creation of a regional network of educational institutions.
4. With the Action Plan 2012-2017 coming to an end, activities have continued to follow the operational action plan to bridge the gap between the two cycles of Periodic Reporting and accelerate progress in responding to regional priorities, based on the recommendations and discussions at the International Conference “Safeguarding African World Heritage as a Driver of Sustainable Development” (Arusha, Tanzania, May/June 2016).

ii. Follow-up activities according to the objectives of the Action Plan 2012-2017 for the Africa Region

5. The following initiatives were organized to *improve the representation of African properties on the World Heritage List*, see WHC/19/43.COM/5A for further details:
 - A Francophone World Heritage Nomination Training Course was organized in Kigali, Rwanda in September 2018 under the Capacity Building Framework for African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) Programmes: 2018-2022. The course was implemented by the *Ecole du Patrimoine Africain* (EPA) with the participation of IUCN and WHC and gathered 30 participants from 10 French and Portuguese Speaking African countries (Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire, Guinea, Rwanda and Togo) working on 9 proposed World Heritage nomination dossiers.
 - A workshop on the ‘Preparation of a Trans-national Serial Nomination of Geometric Rock Art in Lake Victoria Region’ was organized in Kampala, Uganda, in August 2018 in collaboration with ICOMOS and gathered 20 participants to discuss a roadmap for a serial, transnational nomination for the Lake Victoria Region.
 - Upstream technical assistance was provided to 16 representatives of the State Party of South Africa between April and December 2018 to aid with the development and

- finalization of a World Heritage nomination dossier for the “Human Rights, Liberation and Reconciliation: Nelson Mandela Legacy Sites”.
- A regional workshop on harmonization of Tentative Lists in the East Africa region is currently under preparation, to take place in June 2019 in Kigali, Rwanda, and will gather 24 participants.
 - The Centre has initiated a project funded by the UNESCO/Flanders Funds-in-Trust cooperation, aiming to improve the representation of African natural heritage sites on the World Heritage List, by providing technical assistance to States Parties nominating key natural sites and updating their Tentative Lists to include the most exceptional natural sites, based on identified gaps.
 - Six International Assistance projects for preparatory work are ongoing.
6. In support of the *improvement of the state of conservation at African World Heritage properties*, the following activities were carried out:
- 19 International Assistance projects for conservation are ongoing.
 - Two AWHF Conservation Grants were awarded in 2018 to Côte d’Ivoire for the development of a Disaster Risk Management Plan for “Comoe National Park”, and to Kenya for the development of a Strategic Management Plan for sustainable use of sacred Kayas Natural Heritage in Coastal Kenya.
 - Two AWHF World Heritage Research Grants (Moses Mapesa Educational Grant) were awarded to young African researchers from Benin and Madagascar to contribute towards one Doctoral and one Masters research programme.
 - Management plans or sub-plans, including for sustainable tourism, business planning, disaster risk, cultural resources, invasive alien species etc. have been updated for a total of 8 World Heritage properties in Africa, including in particular a Disaster Risk Management Plan for “Niokolo-Koba National Park” (Senegal) within the framework of the Francophone Risk Preparedness Workshop held in Cameroon in 2017, which provided training to 48 participants in Risk Management Planning.
 - A National Disaster Risk Management Workshop on World Heritage Sites in South Africa was organized in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) of South Africa at “Vredefort Dome” (Parys) in July/August 2018. The workshop was attended by 25 site managers and aimed at strengthening the protection of World Heritage by improving risk management skills.
 - The third meeting of African experts on the World Heritage Committee took place in Harare, Zimbabwe in June 2018. The workshop was conducted in partnership with the Zimbabwe National Commission of UNESCO and gathered 25 experts from World Heritage Committee countries (Angola, Burkina Faso, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe) and experts from Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, UNESCO and the AWHF.
 - The first African Regional course on ‘Promoting People-Centred Approaches to Conservation of Nature and Culture’ (PNC18) was organized in August 2018 in collaboration with ICCROM and IUCN at Mosi-oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls, Zambia. 25 participants from 16 countries (Botswana, Cote D’Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe) attended the course.
 - A regional meeting on trans-boundary cooperation for effective management of World Heritage sites in Africa was organized in February 2019 at the city of Man and “Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve” in Côte d’Ivoire, see: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1935/>.
 - A preparatory ‘Workshop for the Third Cycle of World Heritage Periodic Reporting in the Africa Region’, with 24 participants, was organized in collaboration with the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) of South Africa in February 2019 in Nelspruit, South Africa.
 - A renewed partnership agreement between UNESCO and the Government of Norway, has provided for a number of activities in key areas regarding the conservation of natural World Heritage sites in Africa, enhanced support for sites on

the List of World Heritage in Danger, and an effort to revert the current negative perception of the Danger Listing. It also foresees support to the Rapid Response Facility (RRF) as well as to the conservation and management of African cultural heritage involving local communities and youth, with particular attention given to sites and communities affected by conflicts, management of urban heritage sites, and strengthening community involvement in the safeguarding of heritage.

7. In support of the priority to *develop and implement strategies to enable States Parties to effectively address the challenge of balancing heritage conservation and development needs*, the following activities were carried out:
 - The 3rd African World Heritage Regional Youth Forum was organized in April/May 2018 on the Island of Mozambique (Mozambique) for Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa and gathered 35 young participants from Mozambique, Angola, São Tome and Príncipe, Guinea-Bissau and Namibia, see: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1801/>. The Forum aimed at raising awareness and deepening understanding of issues and threats facing African World Heritage, while offering a platform for youth to harness their creativity whilst building networks. The 2019 edition of the Forum (April/May 2019) is organized in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) gathering approximately 40 participants on the theme “World Heritage and Innovation in Africa”.
 - A partnership with UNESCO and the *Ecole du Patrimoine Africain* (EPA) led to a community empowerment project at “Royal Palaces of Abomey” (Benin), implemented between February and June 2018, aimed at providing renewed dynamism to the site’s activities and to strengthen conditions for adequate conservation based on stakeholders’ needs, especially local communities. Activities included a community roundtable gathering 120 participants; the identification of usable spaces on the site; the preparation of a publication on adaptive reuse and community empowerment on African sites; support to existing traditional activities; and development of a cultural agenda for the property.
 - In response to the Ngorongoro Declaration (2016), the Centre, with the financial support of the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust, and in close collaboration with the AWHF and UNESCO regional offices, organized regional workshops entitled “World Heritage and Education Institutions in Africa” respectively at Great Zimbabwe University (Zimbabwe) see: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1819/>, and Saint-Louis (Senegal) see: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1908/>. These events brought together a total of 85 experts, and marked an important milestone in the involvement of African educational institutions in the implementation of the *Convention* and sustainable development. The workshops were the first of a series of UNESCO activities conceived to address the urgent need to build African capacities in a sustainable way, by drawing on the vast pool of expertise available at African educational institutions.
8. In support of implementing necessary mechanisms for heritage conservation, protection and management in pre-conflict, conflict and post-conflict situations, the “Programme for the Rehabilitation of Cultural Heritage and the Safeguarding of Ancient Manuscripts in Mali” has continued to carry out important work for the safeguarding of Mali’s cultural heritage. In addition to the works undertaken on the sites of “Timbuktu”, “Tomb of Askia” and “Old Towns of Djenné”, funded by the European Union and the Spanish Cooperation (AECID), a 3-week long workshop was organized by ICCROM and UNESCO in November 2018 on “First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis (FAC)”. The workshop gathered 21 participants of 19 nationalities coming from 4 continents who received hands-on training, aiming to enhance the participants’ skills for emergency management, crisis communication, and providing people-centred first aid for cultural heritage, using the recent conflict in Mali as a central case study.

B. Other regional cooperation highlights

9. The "UNESCO-Africa-China Forum on World Heritage Capacity Building and Cooperation – World Heritage and Sustainable Development" to be held on 3-4 June 2019, is the first tripartite high level cooperation among UNESCO, Africa and China in the field of World Heritage conservation. It will provide for a broad-based platform for engagement of various stakeholders through knowledge sharing, policy dialogue, and cooperation discussion. High-level officials from Africa and China will attend the Forum and discuss ways to cooperate on the elaboration of nomination files and addressing the conservation of sites including those inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

C. Draft Decision: 43 COM 10A.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/10A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **41 COM 10B.2** adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),*
3. *Welcomes the progress made in the follow-up of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Africa region;*
4. *Thanks the Governments of China, Flanders (Belgium), the Netherlands, Hungary and Norway, the European Union and the African World Heritage Fund for their contributions towards supporting follow-up activities to the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in Africa;*
5. *Commends the States Parties of the Africa Region who have been actively implementing the Action Plan, and encourages States Parties, which have not already done so, to establish their National World Heritage Committees and to develop their National Action Plans and Budgets;*
6. *Calls upon States Parties to continue to support financially and technically the implementation of the Action Plan for the Africa region through follow-up activities in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), including through the African World Heritage Day in fostering support for the Action Plan for the Africa region;*
7. *Further reminds States Parties who have not already done so, to submit their Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value by 1 February 2020 at the latest, as well as clarifications of boundaries by 1 December 2019 at the latest;*
8. *Notes with appreciation the follow-up activities to the Ngorongoro Declaration, and also commends the World Heritage Centre for addressing the urgent need to build African capacities in a sustainable way through the involvement of African educational institutions in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and sustainable development as well as the AWHF, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies and their partners, for the continued implementation of the World Heritage nomination support programme in Africa;*
9. *Requests the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, the AWHF, and with the support of States Parties, to continue its efforts to coordinate and implement the Regional Capacity-Building Programme according to the Action Plan 2012-2017;*
10. *Also requests the World Heritage Centre to present a progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan for the second cycle of Periodic Reporting for the Africa region at its 45th session, in 2021.*

III. FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES TO THE SECOND CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING FOR THE ARAB STATES

A. Second Cycle Action Plans/Regional Programmes

i. Objectives of the Regional Programme for the Arab States

1. The second cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Arab States was carried out from December 2008 to February 2010. Its outcomes were presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010). The Regional Programme was approved by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session (Paris, 2011). Since then, the activities developed in the framework of the Programme have been carried out with the support of the Centre, the national bodies in charge of World Heritage, the Advisory Bodies, the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) and other regional institutions such as the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO).
2. This document provides information on the implementation of the Regional Programme for the Arab States from March 2017 to April 2019, based on the priority actions identified in the Regional Programme for the Arab States, adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010), those being:
 - I) Tentative Lists
 - II) Nominations
 - III) General policy development
 - IV) Protection, conservation and presentation
 - V) Technical research and studies
 - VI) Training
 - VII) International cooperation
 - VII) Information and awareness raising
3. Progress in the priority areas as outlined in the Regional Programme is as follows, see WHC/19/43.COM/5A for further detail :
 - The States Parties of Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Tunisia and United Arab Emirates have updated their Tentative Lists. Support was provided for the inclusion of other sites on the Tentative Lists of Algeria and Kuwait.
 - Support has been provided to the Maghreb countries (Algeria, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia) for potential nomination files on the Oasis systems, and to Tunisia regarding the nomination process for cultural sites in Djerba. Technical support was provided to Palestine on the elaboration of the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value (SOUV) for the “Old Town of Hebron/AI-Khalil” in close coordination with the Advisory Bodies ICCROM and ICOMOS and the UNESCO Office in Ramallah.
 - Reactive Monitoring missions have taken place to Lebanon (October 2018), Sudan (February 2019), Egypt (April 2019), Iraq (April 2019) and Yemen (April 2019). Advisory missions have taken place to Sudan (February 2019) and Tunisia (April 2019). A general workshop on Cultural Heritage in Impact Assessments (HIA) took place in Egypt (March 2019). The launch of two International Assistance projects to assist in the recovery plan for the World Heritage properties of Syria (2019-2020) have taken place. Technical support to Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, and Oman has been provided in order to continue with the boundary clarifications and modifications of their World Heritage properties (2018-2019).

- Several case studies have been undertaken concerning post-conflict reconstruction, with successful fundraising. A publication prepared jointly with UNITAR-UNOSAT on damage assessment in the Ancient City of Aleppo entitled “Five years of conflict, the State of Cultural Heritage in the Ancient City of Aleppo report” has been published in English in 2018 (French and Arabic versions will be published in 2019) funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the UNESCO Heritage Emergency Fund. Thanks to the Netherlands Funds in Trust, several cases studies on Aleppo, Beirut, Berlin and Sarajevo have been undertaken as part of the project entitled “Harnessing reconciliation through the recovery of cultural heritage”. The UNESCO-World Bank position paper entitled “Culture in city reconstruction and recovery”, which was launched at UNESCO Headquarters in November 2018, uses several cases of this project as key examples.
- Cooperation was reinforced with the Field Offices in the region, ARC-WH, Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALESCO), Instituto Cervantes and the Spanish Embassy in Algeria, the International Scientific Committee on Fortifications and Military Heritage (ICOFORT), The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and L’Institut national de recherches archéologiques preventives (INRAP).
- Regular information and supporting documents are provided on the UNESCO and Centre websites in the framework of Information and Awareness Raising.

ii. Follow-up activities according to the objectives outlined above

4. In the context of the safeguarding of cultural heritage in conflict situations, the following activities have been carried out in the Arab States region:
 - Restoration and consolidation works on the bridge leading to the Citadel of the “Ancient City of Aleppo”; documentation using lasergrammetry for the historic buildings ‘Beit Ghazaleh’ and ‘Beit Achiqbash’ in the “Ancient City of Aleppo”, heavily damaged by conflict; restoration of the Al-Lāt Lion in the “Site of Palmyra” (31 May-30 November 2017).
5. In terms of capacity building, several training activities have been carried out in the Arab States region in addition to those developed specifically in response to conflict situations. These include workshops at the sites of Failaka Island (Kuwait) and Ile de Djerba (Tunisia).

B. Other regional cooperation highlights

6. Although the safeguarding of cultural heritage in countries affected by conflict was not among the key priorities identified by the Regional Programme in 2011, it became a priority area of action for the World Heritage Centre following the situation in the region.
7. Eight years after the beginning of armed conflicts in the Arab region, the safeguarding of cultural heritage in affected countries, continues to be a major field of action for the implementation of the *Convention* in the region. In close cooperation with the concerned UNESCO Field Offices and in the framework of the activities of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit (EPR) of the UNESCO Culture Sector and the Culture and Emergencies entity, important work has been carried out to pursue the regular monitoring, rapid damage assessment and emergency support to affected sites. Reflection on key issues such as post-conflict reconstruction in sites devastated by armed conflicts and the actions of extremist armed groups is also at the heart of the priorities of UNESCO.

8. The Regional Programme also pursues the development and implementation of capacity-building activities and the provision of technical support towards the conservation and management of World Heritage properties.
9. The Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), established in Bahrain as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO, provides important support to the implementation of the activities defined in the framework of the Regional Programme on cultural and natural heritage and conflict situations.

C. Draft Decision: 43 COM 10A.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/10A,*
2. *Recalling Decision **41 COM 10B.3** adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017);*
3. *Welcomes the progress made in the follow-up of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting for the Arab States;*
4. *Thanks the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), based in Bahrain, for its contribution towards supporting follow-up activities to the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Arab States;*
5. *Invites the Arab States to increase their cooperation with the World Heritage Centre in order to reinforce the capacities of the national heritage professionals in the field of conservation and management of the World Heritage properties;*
6. *Notes with concern that the safeguarding of cultural and natural heritage in countries of the region which are affected by conflicts remains one of the priorities of the Regional Programme and requires more human and financial resources;*
7. *Reminds the Arab States which have not already done so to submit their Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value by 1 February 2020 at the latest, as well as clarifications of boundaries by 1 December 2019 at the latest;*
8. *Requests the World Heritage Centre to present a progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan for the second cycle of Periodic Reporting for the Arab States region at its 45th session, in 2021.*

IV. FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES TO THE SECOND CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

A. Second Cycle Action Plans/Regional Programmes

i) Objectives of the Regional Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean 2014-2024

1. The Regional *Action Plan for World Heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean (PARALC)* for 2014-2024 is structured around five objectives directly linked to the strategic objectives (5C's) of the Convention:
 - I) Strengthen the *Credibility* of the World Heritage List
 - II) Ensure the effective *Conservation* of World Heritage properties
 - III) Promote the development of effective *Capacity Building* in the State Parties
 - IV) Increase public awareness, involvement and support to World Heritage through *Communication*
 - V) Enhance the role of *Communities* in the identification and management of World Heritage
2. Following Decision **38 COM 10B.4**, by which the Committee adopted the 2014-2024 Regional Action Plan, the Centre has successfully worked, in close collaboration with the States Parties of the region, to establish three sub-regional action plans linked to the Regional Action Plan, but with a focus on the specific needs and priorities of each sub-region. In this regard, sub-regional meetings were held to adopt the action plans for South America (Cusco, May 2015), the Caribbean (Havana, November 2014) and for Mexico and Central America (Zacatecas, April 2018).
3. A mid-term monitoring exercise was undertaken by the Centre in 2018 with regards to the Regional Action Plan (PARALC), 2014-2024 in the form of a detailed questionnaire distributed to the national focal points for World Heritage. A total of 26 of the 33 States Parties in the region responded. The main objective of the exercise was to gather important information from the States Parties on the level of progress in implementing the priority actions established in the Plan. The responses to the questionnaire will help assess the effectiveness of the PARALC's application, as well as provide updated information in light of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting on the current challenges and opportunities identified by the States Parties for strengthening the conservation and management of World Heritage in the region.
4. Given the approaching end date of the sub-regional *Action Plan for World Heritage in the Caribbean (PAC), 2015-2019*, a final monitoring exercise is planned for implementation to assess the effectiveness and application of the PAC among the relevant States Parties, and identify avenues and options for future sub-regional cooperation.
5. A significant number of joint activities involving several State Parties have been implemented in conformity with the priorities and objectives of the Plan, notably those outlined below.

ii) Follow-up activities according to the Objectives of the Regional Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean 2014-2024

6. To strengthen the *Credibility* of the World Heritage List, significant attention has been focused in the past two years on supporting States Parties' efforts to update their Tentative Lists for a more balanced and representative World Heritage List in the region. Through a collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, the Centre developed a detailed

methodology that can be applied in any State Party of the region for updating the Tentative List in a participatory, inter-institutional and integral manner.

7. International Assistance funding was granted to Peru and Honduras in 2018 to implement the above-mentioned methodology as pilot initiatives in the region. The State Party of Peru has concluded the implementation of the two key workshops, which involved a participatory analysis of the country's current Tentative List, identification of priority heritage typologies and properties to include in its updated List in the framework of a national vision for heritage protection, and the final approval of the Tentative List submitted to the Centre.
8. In the field of effective *Conservation* of World Heritage properties, the implementation of the project "Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System", financed by UNESCO/Japan Funds-in-Trust, launched in 2016, and involving the six States Parties of Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, has neared its completion. To date, a total of 20 activities have been implemented, including 12 international workshops involving the participation of the national Technical Secretariats from each country. The project has involved the development of an interactive digital database for monitoring the state of conservation of the property, as well as a standardized guide for conservation of stone and earthen architecture structure for the entire property.
9. Also in the field of conservation, implementation began of a project to develop Disaster Risk Management Plans for three properties in Chile, with the financial support of the German Federal Foreign Office. Participatory meetings and workshops were held between the national authorities and local management actors responsible for "Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works", "Historic Quarter of the Seaport City of Valparaíso" and "Rapa Nui National Park", three properties selected by the State Party as priorities due to their vulnerability to harsh climatic conditions and risk of natural disasters.
10. Two important extra-budgetary conservation projects financed by the UNESCO/Japanese Funds-in-Trust for the Preservation for the World Cultural Heritage (JFiT) were finalized in 2018 in the cultural property "Tiwanaku: Spiritual and Political Centre of the Tiwanaku Culture" (Bolivia) and the mixed property "Tikal National Park" (Guatemala). In Tiwanaku, significant achievements were reached in improving the site's conservation and archaeological research capacity, definition of a buffer zone, integrated management, communication and visibility, and sustainable tourism potential. The Tikal project was designed to stabilize and consolidate the most damaged structures of the North Acropolis.
11. Several activities have been implemented regarding the objective of promoting effective capacity building of the States Parties. Thanks to key strategic meetings with the World Heritage Centre, the States Parties and the region's two Category 2 Centres, both now have an updated annual work plan that will support capacity building of their member countries' efforts in implementing the *Convention*. In the case of the Lucio Costa Centre located in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, a meeting was held in August 2018 to agree on the Work Plan for 2018-2020, which was later adopted upon the conclusion of the Lucio Costa Centre's second Governing Board meeting. As for the Regional Institute for World Heritage in Zacatecas (Mexico), this Category 2 Centre has finalized, in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, its annual Work Plan, which is currently pending approval by its Governing Board in the second half of 2019.
12. An important capacity-building national seminar was held in Buenos Aires (Argentina) in December 2018 for training of site managers on the topic of strengthening risk management in World Heritage properties, and included representatives from the National Commission, national authorities that compose the Argentinian Committee for World Heritage (CAPM), as well as an international expert and the WHC.
13. The final phase of capacity-building activities and the development of a Disaster Risk Management Plan in "City of Quito" (Ecuador) was completed in 2018, as part of the implementation of project entitled 'Support for the implementation of Pilot Projects

inscribed on the sub-regional Action Plans for World Heritage in South America and the Caribbean', funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID).

14. A capacity-building workshop-conference was held from 30 July to 3 August 2018 in Phillipsburg, Saint Maarten, with the support of the UNESCO Office in Kingston, on disaster recovery and heritage preservation, particularly in response to widespread impacts to cultural heritage following the destructive 2017 Atlantic hurricane season. Approximately 50 participants attended from the Caribbean region, representing international and regional policy makers, emergency responders and cultural heritage stewards.
15. Concerning the objectives of 'Increased public awareness, involvement and support to World Heritage through communication', in December 2018, the Centre participated in the organization of a conference and celebration at UNESCO Headquarters promoted by the State Party of Ecuador to commemorate the year of the 40th anniversary of the inscription of the properties "Galápagos Islands" and "City of Quito" on the World Heritage List in 1978.
16. Also related to public awareness and involvement, particularly amongst youth, an international initiative for young people entitled "My Community in World Heritage" was implemented by the UNESCO Office in San José in 2019, in cooperation with the Cultural Centers of Spain in El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama, as part of a Participation Programme approved in 2018.
17. In the field of public awareness, the Centre is developing a publication on the transboundary property "Qhapaq Ñan, Andean Road System", as a case study for best practices and ongoing trends in the LAC region, and in light of the finalization of the extra-budgetary project mentioned above, which should be released at the end of 2019.
18. The enhancement of the role of communities in the identification and management of World Heritage, a further two projects funded by AECID were completed. In "Viñales Valley" (Cuba), the project involved the development of a sustainable community-based tourism strategy to contribute to better management of the cultural landscape by providing training and developing a Sustainable and Community Tourism strategy, regarding the rapidly growing tourism sector. In the Pantanal region of Paraguay, the pilot project involved broad participation of local communities and indigenous peoples in the area and capacity building on topics related to the conservation and management of a World Heritage property, and avenues for enhancing current protection arrangements at the local and national levels.
19. An extra-budgetary project was developed and is currently under implementation in the "Precolumbian Chiefdom Settlements with Stone Spheres of the Diquís" (Costa Rica), financed by the German Foreign Office for International Cooperation to strengthen capacities of local communities and indigenous peoples, particularly of their youth, in the conservation and management of the property. The project aims to develop mechanisms for participatory management between local communities and the national and local authorities involved in cultural heritage protection, as well as developing opportunities for education and communication of local residents.
20. Further details regarding the above mentioned activities can be found in Document WHC/19/43.COM/5A.

B. Draft Decision: 43 COM 10A.4

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/10A,
2. Recalling Decision **41 COM 10B.4**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow, 2017),
3. Welcomes the progress made in the follow-up of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting for Latin America and the Caribbean;
4. Expresses its appreciation to the States Parties of the region for their contribution to the monitoring undertaken by the World Heritage Centre in 2018 regarding the implementation of the Regional Action Plan for World Heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean (PARALC), 2014-2024, and encourages them to continue their efforts to address the priority actions and expected results identified in the PARALC, keeping the World Heritage Centre informed on significant advances or challenges;
5. Strongly encourages the States Parties of the Caribbean to actively participate in the monitoring of the Action Plan for World Heritage in the Caribbean (PAC), 2015-2019, and contribute to the identification of new avenues and options for sub-regional cooperation in strengthening the implementation of the World Heritage Convention;
6. Notes with appreciation the formulation of a biennial Work Plan 2018-2020 by the Lucio Costa Centre for Capacity Building on Heritage Management (C2C-LCC), Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO, for the implementation of capacity-building and other training activities in the framework of the sub-regional Action Plan for World Heritage in South America 2015-2020 (PAAS) 2015-2020, and strongly encourages the Category 2 Centre to continue its implementation of this agenda, in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, and support other relevant activities related to World Heritage among its member countries;
7. Further encourages the Regional Institute for World Heritage in Zacatecas in Mexico, Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO, to begin the implementation of its annual Work Plan developed for 2019, which includes important capacity-building activities prioritized within the framework of the Action Plan for World Heritage in Mexico and Central America (PAMAC), 2018-2023, and continue its collaboration with the World Heritage Centre in this regard;
8. Reminds the States Parties of the region which have not already done so to submit their Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value by 1 February 2020 at the latest, as well as clarifications of boundaries by 1 December 2019 at the latest;
9. Requests the World Heritage Centre to present a progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean at its 45th session in 2021.

V. FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES ON THE SECOND CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING FOR EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

A. Second Cycle Action Plan/Regional Programmes

i. Action Plan for North America and Helsinki Action Plan for Europe and objectives

1. At its 38th session in 2014, the World Heritage Committee adopted the Second Cycle Periodic Report for North America and subsequently adopted the Second Cycle Periodic Report for Europe at its 39th session in 2015. Two distinct Action Plans were developed for both regions and endorsed by the Committee in 2015.
2. Following the adoption of the Periodic Report for North America, and in accordance with Decision **38 COM 10A**, the States Parties of Canada and the United States of America have submitted the sub-regional Periodic Report Action Plan for North America in 2015. The Action Plan was prepared by the Focal Points for World Heritage of Canada and the United States of America, the two States Parties in the North America sub-region. The World Heritage Committee acknowledged and endorsed the Second Cycle Action Plan for the sub-region of North America and its five result areas in its Decision **39 COM 10A.2**.
3. The Action Plan for North America identifies activities that build on the well-established foundation of cooperation in the sub-region and its current activities. It speaks to the Strategic Objectives for the implementation of the *Convention*, and is structured around five Result Areas with an implementation timeframe of five years. These areas of issues and opportunities for enhanced sub-regional cooperation include:
 - I) Future Tentative Lists
 - II) Strategies for public information and outreach about World Heritage
 - III) Development of strategies to increase communication and cooperation between World Heritage site managers through the whole North American sub-region
 - IV) International assistance to World Heritage properties
 - V) Integration into existing areas of sub-regional cooperation

While recognizing the existing strong ties between the two States Parties and their respective parks agencies, the Action Plan is intended to support continued efforts taken for the protection and promotion of World Heritage in the sub-region.

4. Following the adoption of the Periodic Report for Europe and in accordance with Decision **38 COM 10A.2**, the sub-regional Periodic Report Action Plan for Europe (“Helsinki Action Plan”) has been produced. The Helsinki Action Plan was prepared through joint efforts by the Centre, Focal Points of the sub-region’s States Parties and Advisory Bodies. The World Heritage Committee acknowledged and endorsed the Second Cycle Action Plan for the sub-region of Europe and its core objectives in its Decision **39 COM 10A.1**.
5. The Helsinki Action Plan was conceived as a Framework Action Plan with quantitative regional targets, aiming at facilitating its appropriation and integration into national, sub-regional and regional strategies. The three core objectives of the Action Plan include:
 - Identification and protection of Outstanding Universal Value
 - Effective management
 - Increased awareness of the *Convention*These overarching core objectives include priority areas corresponding to specific objectives, which are further subdivided into 34 specific actions. Focal Points and national authorities are invited to decide which of these actions are most relevant in their respective countries and to take ownership of the plan.

ii. **Follow-up activities to the Action Plan for North America and the Helsinki Action Plan for Europe**

6. Various activities and initiatives relevant for the implementation of the Helsinki Action Plan have been carried out. Highlights of some activities, linked to their specific priority areas as defined in the Action Plan, are outlined below.
7. In support of the three core objectives “Identification and protection of Outstanding Universal Value,” “Effective management,” and “Increased awareness of the *Convention*,” activities implemented in Europe include (see also WHC/19/43.COM/5A for further detail):
 - Capacity-building for the effective management of World Heritage properties through workshops in Albania and Montenegro, supported by International Assistance, and in Georgia and Ukraine through Advisory Assistance. The Centre also participated in a workshop of the Italian World Heritage site managers.
 - The identification, conservation and management of under-represented types of World Heritage properties has been supported through the implementation of the Thematic Initiative on Heritage of Astronomy, Science and Technology by the Centre, in close collaboration with the Advisory Bodies and the International Astronomical Union.
 - The ongoing development of a general guidance concerning the management of cultural and natural heritage of religious interest was substantially supported by two international conferences in Georgia and Ukraine.
 - The translation of main documents and manuals in Armenian contributed to awareness-raising and the promotion of the World Heritage Convention thanks to International Assistance.
 - In close collaboration with the State Party of Turkey and with the support of a private scientific foundation, the Centre is working towards a sub-regional conference on archaeological World Heritage properties, to initiate an international network for sharing of best practices and experience.
 - A “stakeholder dialogue” related to energy transition projects within or near World Heritage properties was organized by KNE – (Competence Centre for Nature Conservation and Energy Transition) and included the participation of the World Heritage Centre. The initiative resulted in recommendation documents that are planned to be translated into the working languages of the *Convention*.
 - In the framework of the “Convention France UNESCO”, the Centre is preparing a publication on case studies in the Europe and North America region regarding Heritage Impact Assessments, including cases linked to renewable energies with the support of the Ministry of Environment of France.
8. The Helsinki Action Plan Monitoring Survey of 2016 served as a self-assessment and tracking tool for progress made by the States Parties of Europe towards the achievement of the Action Plan’s regional targets. The Focal Points of 33 out of the 49 States Parties in Europe reported progress towards the achievement of 13 of the 44 regional targets, with 12 regional targets achieved or surpassed. Taking note of the responses received, the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session in 2017 encouraged States Parties to financially support the implementation of the regional Action Plans through support to the Centre (Decision **41 COM 10B.5**). For the time being, the follow-up to the 2016 Helsinki Action Plan Monitoring Survey remains on hold due to resource limitations. Subject to the availability of resources, this opportunity could be taken for further reflections to re-consider the results, design and methodology of the survey, in line with Decision **41 COM 10B.5**.

9. A progress report will be presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session on the follow-up activities to the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in Europe.
10. The progress report on the follow-up activities to the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in North America will be presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 45th session, in 2021.
11. In the North America region, the process for all remaining Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value has been finalized in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. Further progress has been made in finalizing the Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value in the Europe region, in line with Action 11 of the Helsinki Action Plan.

B. Other regional cooperation highlights

12. Enhanced transboundary cooperation and management effectiveness is one of the key outcomes of the Pilot upstream project “Towards strengthened governance of the shared transboundary natural and cultural heritage of the Lake Ohrid region” (Albania and the Republic of North Macedonia), which was finalized in June 2018. The project contributed to the protection and sustainable development of the transboundary region and its components.
13. The German World Heritage Foundation financially supports an operational conservation project for the World Heritage properties of Armenia.

C. Draft Decision: 43 COM 10A.5

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/19/43.COM/10A,
2. Recalling Decision **41 COM 10B.5**, adopted at its 41st session (Krakow 2017),
3. Welcomes the progress made in the follow-up of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting for Europe;
4. Reiterating that the follow-up of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting has considerable resource and work load implications, encourages States Parties to financially support the implementation of the regional Action Plans through support to the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies with a view to enabling further reflections in the follow-up to the Helsinki Action Plan Monitoring Survey of 2016;
5. Requests the States Parties of North America to submit a progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan for North America at its 45th session;
6. Welcomes the progress made in finalizing Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value in both sub-regions, expresses its sincere gratitude to the States Parties of North America for completing the process for all Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value in the sub-region;
7. Reminds the States Parties of the region which have not already done so to submit their Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value by 1 February 2020 at the latest, as well as clarifications of boundaries by 1 December 2019 at the latest;
8. Also requests the World Heritage Centre to present a progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan for Europe at its 45th session in 2021.