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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-third session

**Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan
30 June – 10 July 2019**

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

5A: Report of the World Heritage Centre on its activities and the implementation of the World Heritage Committee's Decisions

INF.5A: Draft Report of the World Heritage Committee on its activities for the 22nd session of the General Assembly of States Parties (UNESCO, 2019)

SUMMARY

This document provides the Committee with the draft report to be presented to the 22nd session of the General Assembly and to the 40th session of the General Conference, as per Article 29.3 of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. The report contains information concerning the main activities and decisions taken by the World Heritage Committee since the 21st session of the General Assembly of States Parties held on 14-15 November 2017.

The report will be included as one of the "statutory reports of UNESCO's intergovernmental committees and councils submitted to the General Conference, and the reports of governmental, regional and international conferences" (40 C/REP/19) and will be made available in the six official languages of UNESCO. It will not require a decision on the part of the General Conference.

I. Overview and structure of this document

1. This document is intended to provide the UNESCO General Conference with information regarding the main activities and decisions taken by the World Heritage Committee since the 21st General Assembly of States Parties (14-15 November 2017) in the implementation of the *Convention*.
2. In order to better present the varied information contained in this document, the main activities and decisions of the World Heritage Committee have been grouped according to its Strategic Objectives. The Strategic Objectives, adopted by the Committee at its 26th session (Budapest, 2002), are the following:
 - a) Strengthen the **Credibility** of the World Heritage List
 - b) Ensure the effective **Conservation** of the World Heritage properties
 - c) Promote the development of effective **Capacity-building** measures in States Parties
 - d) Increase public awareness, involvement and support for World Heritage through **Communication**¹.
3. To the 4 Strategic Objectives mentioned above (also called “4 Cs”), the Committee, at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007), decided to add a “Fifth C” for “**Communities**” which reads as follows: “To enhance the role of communities in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*” (Decision **31 COM 13B**).

II. Background information

A. Number of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention*

4. As of May 2019, there are 193 States Parties to the *Convention*².

B. Current Members of the World Heritage Committee and Bureau

5. **21 members:** Angola, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, Cuba, Guatemala, Hungary, Indonesia, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Norway, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Spain, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe.

Their terms of office are:

Until the **end of the 40th session of the General Conference** (2019): Angola, Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Cuba, Indonesia, Kuwait, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe.

Until the **end of the 41st session of the General Conference** (2021): Australia, Bahrain, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, China, Guatemala, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Norway, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Spain, Uganda.

¹ See Decision **26 COM 17.1** (Budapest, 2002).

² The list of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* is available at the following web address:
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/>

Composition of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee since 2017

2017- 2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Chairperson: H.E Sheikha Haya Rashed Al Khalifa (Bahrain)	Chairperson: H.E. Mr. Abulfaz Garayev (Azerbaijan)	Chairperson: H.E. Mr. Tian Xuejun (China)
Rapporteur: Anna E. Zeichner (Hungary)	Rapporteur: Mahani Taylor (Australia)	Rapporteur: Ms. Miray Hasaltun Wosinski (Bahrain)
Azerbaijan	Brazil	Bahrain
Brazil	Burkina Faso	Brazil (<i>until the 22nd session of the General Assembly</i>)
China	Indonesia	Hungary
Spain	Norway	Spain
Zimbabwe	Tunisia	Uganda

C. World Heritage Statutory Meetings since the 21st General Assembly (2017)

SESSION	VENUE	DATES	DOCUMENTS PREPARED
42nd session of the World Heritage Committee (42 COM)	Manama, Bahrain	24 June - 4July 2018	42 Documents [31 Working Documents and 11 INF. Documents] (WHC/18/42.COM)
43rd session of the World Heritage Committee (43 COM)	Baku, Azerbaijan	30 June – 10 July 2019	42 Documents [31 Working Documents and 11 INF. Documents] (WHC/19/43.COM)
TOTAL 62 working documents and 22 information documents, 84 documents in total			

D. Strengthening the credibility of the World Heritage List

Nominations to the World Heritage List

Inscription of properties on the World Heritage List since the 21st General Assembly (2017).

Region	New cultural properties	New natural properties	New mixed properties	Total
Africa	2	1	0	3
Arab States	4	0	0	4
Asia/Pacific	12	3	0	15
Europe/North America	19	3	1	23
Latin America/Caribbean	0	0	3	3
TOTAL	37	7	4	48

6. The total number of properties on the World Heritage List as of July 2019 is 1121 (869 cultural, 213 natural and 39 mixed)³. These properties are located in 167 States Parties (i.e. 26 States Parties have no property inscribed on the World Heritage List). 178 States Parties have submitted Tentative Lists of properties they may decide to nominate in future years. It is to be noted that, at the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee in 2018, 87% (14 out of 16) and, at the 43rd session in 2019, 73% (8 out of 11) of the Advisory Bodies recommendations have been changed by the Committee. It should also be noted that, by Decision **42 COM 12A**, the Committee decided to review the nomination and evaluation process with a view of increasing the balance and credibility of the World Heritage List.

Inscription of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger since the 21st General Assembly (2017)

Committee Session	Number of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger	Number of properties removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger
42 COM (Manama, 2018)	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake Turkana National Park (Kenya) 	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belize Barrier Reef Reserve System (Belize)
43 COM (Baku, 2019)	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California (Mexico) 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birthplace of Jesus: Church of the Nativity and the Pilgrimage Route, Bethlehem (Palestine) • Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works (Chile)

³ The World Heritage List is available on the web at the following address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/>

7. The total number of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger as of July 2019 is **53 (36 cultural and 17 natural)**.⁴

Deletion of properties from the World Heritage List

8. None since 2009.

Global Strategy for a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List

9. International, inter-regional and regional meetings and workshops have been organized for the implementation of the Global Strategy. Details of all these activities have been included in document WHC/19/43.COM/5A.

E. Ensuring the effective conservation of World Heritage properties

State of conservation reports of World Heritage properties examined by the Committee since the 21st General Assembly (2017)

42 COM	LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER	WORLD HERITAGE LIST
Africa	15	20
Arab States	22	14
Asia/Pacific	6	23
Europe/North America	4	29
Latin America/Caribbean	7	17
TOTAL (157)	54	103
43 COM	LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER	WORLD HERITAGE LIST
Africa	16	18
Arab States	22	18
Asia/Pacific	6	34
Europe/North America	4	26
Latin America/Caribbean	6	16
TOTAL (166)	54	112

⁴ The list of World Heritage in Danger is available on the web at the following address:
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/danger/>

Approved International Assistance (IA) from the World Heritage Fund since the 21st General Assembly (2017) as of July 2019.

REGIONS	NUMBER OF STATES PARTIES TO REQUEST IA	NUMBER OF REQUESTS	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROVED (in USD)
Africa	17	24	767,680
Arab States	2	3	90,000
Asia/Pacific	4	4	222,966
Europe/North America	3	3	90,405
Latin America/Caribbean	5	8	359,766
TOTAL	31	42	1,530,817

Periodic Reporting

10. The Progress report on the preparation of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting was presented to the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee (Manama, 2018).
11. The Progress report on the follow-up to the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting as well as the Progress report on the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting have been presented to the 43rd session of the Committee.

Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism

12. As per Decision **31 COM 5.2**, the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism is a constant cooperative process with the State Party concerned. At its 42nd session (Manama, 2018), the Committee decided to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism to 11 properties and decided to start applying it to one property at its 43rd session (Baku, 2019). The following 12 properties are therefore now subject to the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism:

- Temple of Preah Vihear (Cambodia)
- Manovo-Gounda Saint-Floris (Central African Republic)
- Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
- Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
- Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
- Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
- Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
- Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan)
- Timbuktu (Mali)
- Tomb of Askia (Mali)
- Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Serbia)
- Selous Game Reserve (United Republic of Tanzania)

International Conferences and Symposiums

13. A number of international conferences and symposiums focused on various World Heritage issues were organized by the World Heritage Centre or with the Centre's assistance. Inventories of these activities are included in documents WHC/18/42.COM/5A and WHC/19/43.COM/5A.

F. Promoting the development of effective capacity-building in States Parties

Capacity-building Strategy

14. Over the past biennium, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in close cooperation with States Parties and relevant Category 2 Centres, have undertaken a number of activities which contributed directly to the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy (WHCBS), adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session (Paris, 2011). These included programmes aimed at strengthening regional and national institutions responsible for heritage protection, training initiatives targeting professionals and youth as well as the development of new guidance materials.

Education activities

15. A number of international and regional World Heritage Youth Fora were organized by the World Heritage Centre or with the Centre's assistance to develop educational activities related to World Heritage. This includes the World Heritage Young Professionals Forum 2018 entitled "*Protecting Heritage in an Ever-Changing World*" held from 17 to 26 June 2018 in Manama (Bahrain) in conjunction with the 42nd Session of the World Heritage Committee, as well as the World Heritage Young Professionals Forum 2019 devoted to the theme of "*World Heritage: Local Insights for Global Challenges*" which will be organized from 23 June to 2 July 2019 in Baku (Azerbaijan), in conjunction with the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee. Furthermore, in partnership with the European Union, the European Young Heritage Professionals Forum is being organized from 20 to 24 May 2019 in Zadar, Croatia, as the legacy of the European Year of Cultural Heritage (EYCH 2018). The five-day Forum is designed to foster intercultural learning and exchange and will address for the first time, both tangible and intangible cultural heritage, exploring the potential synergies and challenges of their protection and safeguarding in the European context.
16. The World Heritage Volunteers 2018 and 2019 campaigns carried out numerous camps on several World Heritage properties and sites on the Tentative Lists around the world, involving a large participation of local organizations and mobilizing youth to preserve and promote World Heritage by reaching out to their peers and communities. Within the World Heritage Volunteers Initiative 2019, a Capacity Building Workshop for Team Leaders of the World Heritage Volunteers (WHV) Initiative was organised by the World Heritage Centre from 12 to 15 March 2019, at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. The training aimed to strengthen the capacities and skills of the team leaders in fundraising, advocacy and communication, and project management.
17. A detailed inventory of the activities mentioned above is included in documents WHC/18/42.COM/5A and WHC/19/43.COM/5A.

G. Increasing public awareness, involvement and support for World Heritage through communication

Awareness-raising

18. In 2018, the World Heritage website (<https://whc.unesco.org>) received an average of 33,227 visits per day. The World Heritage website represent 38.8% of the total visits and 44.9% of the total page views to the UNESCO webpages, demonstrating high global interest in World Heritage.
19. 6 e-newsletters “World Heritage Information” were sent in 2018 and 2017 in French and English to 28,025 World Heritage Centre website members.
20. Articles and interviews on World Heritage have been published in response to requests by numerous national and international well-known media.

Publications

21. In 2017-2018, 100,000 **World Heritage Maps** were produced and disseminated in English, French and Spanish in partnership with Bahrain and National Geographic. The 2018-2019 version of the map (35,000 copies) was produced in English, French and Spanish in partnership with Azerbaijan and National Geographic.
22. Eight issues of the quarterly magazine **World Heritage** (issues 84 to 91) were published between July 2017 and April 2019.
23. The **World Heritage Resource Manual Series** continues with translations in Armenian in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies. Translations were supported by the World Heritage Fund through International Assistance and the Armenian National Commission for UNESCO.

Bilateral Agreements with States Parties and Partnerships

24. In 2017-2019, bilateral agreements were concluded or continued with 14 States Parties and the European Commission
25. In the period of 2017-2019, the World Heritage Centre has established and/or extended **15 partnerships with private sector companies, foundations, and NGOs**, all of which are managed in close consultation with UNESCO’s Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP). Inventories of on-going and envisaged partnerships with the private sector and foundations were presented to the Committee in documents WHC/18/42.COM/5A and WHC-19/43.COM/5A.