



Periodic Reporting Follow-up Meeting for Mediterranean Europe

13-17 March 2010
Acre, Israel

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The participants of the Follow-up Meeting to Periodic Reporting Mediterranean Region, which took place from 13 -17 March 2010 at Acre, Israel appreciated the kind invitation by the Israeli authorities, in particular the Israel World Heritage Committee and the Israeli National Commission for UNESCO to host this important event for the whole region. They also expressed their gratitude to the Old Akko Development Company Ltd. for the warm welcome and hospitality. The meeting was enriched by four study tours and site visits: to Masada, the White City of Tel-Aviv and the Old City of Acre, all three World Heritage sites and to Caesarea, a Tentative List site.

The meeting was attended by 18 participants from 10 countries (Cyprus, France, Greece, Holy See, Israel, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain and Turkey and with apologies from Andorra and San Marino), as well as by Representatives of IUCN, ICOMOS, ICCROM and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. The Rapporteur of the first cycle of the European Periodic Reporting exercise also participated and site managers of World Heritage properties in Israel attended the meeting as observers. The list of participants, the agenda of the meeting as well as the Status Reports of the State Parties is enclosed as Annex I, II and III.

CONCLUSIONS

The participants recalled the success of the Periodic Reporting for the European Region presented to the World Heritage Committee in 2006 for 5 sub-regions covering 48 countries and a total of 244 sites (including transboundary properties). They considered that the process became an important tool for cooperation, exchange and joint action to enhance heritage conservation in general.

The participants noted that many sites from Mediterranean Europe were inscribed at a very early stage and that management plans, clear boundaries, buffer zones and statements of outstanding universal value were lacking as noted by the previous Periodic Reporting exercise completed in 2006.



The participants reviewed the results of the Periodic Reporting previous meetings in the Mediterranean (Madrid 2006, Corfu 2008 and Tomar 2009) as well as follow up reporting that was presented by the Advisory Bodies and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. The representatives highlighted the situation in the respective countries in their status reports, in particular regarding updated legislation, name changes, revisions to Tentative Lists (including transnational, serial) nomination projects, boundary revisions and buffer zone preparations, updating and adoption of management or other plans. Information was also provided on training courses, university programmes and capacity building as well as national networks of site managers and organizations in charge of World Heritage.

Specific working groups were held concerning the following themes:

- Reflections on the Periodic Reporting Format of the 2nd cycle;
- Exercise on the Statements of OUV (using as examples the White City of Tel Aviv and the Old City of Acre).

Participants expressed their satisfaction concerning the questionnaire with regards to the structure and the user friendly format. Nevertheless, efforts should be made to involve a wide range of decision makers including local and national levels and specifically for complex and serial properties. Technical issues were raised concerning the formulation of the questions on topics such as transnational nominations, training of site managers and clarifications concerning the specificities of natural & cultural sites. It was suggested that the World Heritage Centre should provide feedback and accept clarifications in paragraphs reserved for comments together with graphic material, including maps and photographs. At the same time the preparation of an Action Plan was proposed by the participants following the completion of the Periodic Reporting questionnaires.

As regards the results from the exercise, participants agreed that the drafting of the Statements of OUV should be based on the World Heritage Committee decisions and the evaluation from the Advisory bodies. The section on Management should provide relevant updated material.

In view of these considerations and lively discussions in plenary and working groups, a number of recommendations were brought forward. These are addressed to States Parties to the Convention, the Advisory Bodies ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN as well as the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the



World Heritage Committee for its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010) through the working document on Periodic Reporting follow-up.

RECOMMENDATIONS

National legislation and protection

The participants noted that a number of **national legislations** have been revised or updated and recommended that:

- States Parties are encouraged to enhance national legislation with provisions for the Protection and Management of World Heritage Properties at the time of their nomination. This may include provisions relevant to the Protection and Management of World Heritage Properties (e.g. Italy - Law 20, Feb. 2006, n.77);
- States Parties are encouraged to provide updated legislation information for the UNESCO database;
- States Parties are invited to share experiences concerning legal frameworks;
- State Parties are invited to include special provisions in their national legislation related to risk preparedness and risk management including on Climate Change.

Statements of outstanding universal value (OUV)

The participants requested that:

- More training programmes be launched by the Advisory Bodies in cooperation with State Parties (through small sub-regional working groups – Regional initiatives for relevant training projects);
- Further advice be provided by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies for the preparation of the Statements of OUV in accordance with the Operational Guidelines;
- Best practice be shared and communication be enhanced between the Focal Points of the European Mediterranean sub-region;
- Dialogue and collaboration between stakeholders and site managers be strengthened aiming the better understanding of the whole process. Potential support can be provided by the World Heritage Centre and International Advisory Bodies.
- Pilot Case Studies from the Mediterranean region be distributed to serve as model statements of OUV;



- State Parties are encouraged to take advantage of the World Heritage Centre online data base including Advisory Bodies evaluation and data sheets;
- The participants suggest that the Advisory Bodies consider providing more assistance in the preparation of Statements of OUV (e.g. web, new technologies, “hot line”).

Boundaries and buffer zones

The participants reviewed progress made with many boundary clarifications which were presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session (Seville, Spain 2009).

The participants noted that further work is required on issues related to buffer zones. The recommendations of the World Heritage Committee as well as on World Heritage and Buffer zones (Davos, March 2008) should be taken into account, in particular as many buffer zones are not covered by the management plans for the World Heritage property;

Management plans and management systems

The participants noted that a comparatively small number of **management plans** have been prepared until now due to various factors such as the complexity of drafting Management Plans with the involvement of stakeholders, the shortage of funds and personnel available. The meeting also noted that management plans may not be always required if functioning management systems could be documented. It was agreed by all participants that:

- It is imperative to prepare first the Statements of OUV as an important tool for a well structured Management System/Plan;
- Translation of the Operational Guidelines as well as of other relevant material into national languages is of great importance;
- New issues to be tackled should incorporate concern for disaster risk reduction such as responses to theft, vandalism as well as natural disasters.
- Inclusion of impacts assessment (as required by the E.U. regulations) as well as of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is equally important;
- The relation between Management Plans and other existing Plans (e.g. urban plans, master plans, spatial plans) should be strengthened;
- Capacity-building programmes on all aspects related to the implementation of the Convention should utilize existing structures of the



- Advisory bodies and programmes in academia, local authorities, and NGOs;
- Community involvement and awareness in World Heritage should be encouraged to ensure effective management;
 - Request the World Heritage Centre to provide a dedicated page on its web-site containing details of manuals, thematic studies and reports of expert meetings.

Tentative Lists and potential serial nominations

- All European Mediterranean State Parties are invited to join a forum (“web-chat”) between the Focal Points as a tool for the dissemination of information and the comparative analysis which can potentially lead to serial nominations. This Forum would be coordinated by the host of the forthcoming regional meeting;
- State Parties are invited to explore the possibility of reducing the number of properties proposed for inscription and to promote nominations of underrepresented categories;

Regional cooperation

The participants noted the importance of meeting to exchange ideas and information and that effort should be undertaken to meet regularly to promote the **regional cooperation** by:

- Focusing on the implementation of regional meetings (on the basis of Berlin meeting, 2005) with the involvement of all European countries;
- Training, developing skills and promoting of capacity building concerning nomination process;
- Specific training of World Heritage site managers through joint activities;
- Twinning exercises and creation of networks by bringing all interested parties into the process targeting harmonization;
- Sensitization of stakeholders and raising of awareness of communities with an emphasis to the young generation;
- Linking certain types of systems existing in the Mediterranean which are gradually disappearing;
- Building on the results of the working groups of the Corfu meeting on thematic studies of regional significance; develop an Action Plan framework for discussion at the next region meeting with input from the Advisory bodies ;



Moreover it was proposed that specific issues related to capacity building should be addressed to the General Assembly of ICCROM and Executive Committee of ICOMOS for facilitating training courses or workshops. These courses could also be in the form of e-learning courses aiming to the accessibility by all State Parties.

Other issues

- State Parties should provide regular update for the database of focal points/ site managers;
- State Parties during their work took note that 2010 is launched as the International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures and also the International Year of Biodiversity;
- A strong feeling among the participants was expressed for launching a meeting in 2011 to support Focal Points in filling the questionnaire of the 2nd Cycle of the Periodic Reporting.

The meeting encouraged the authorities of countries in the sub-region to invite for the 6th Meeting for the Periodic Reporting Follow-up for Mediterranean Europe to take place in spring 2011 and to inform the World Heritage Centre of such an invitation.