

Philipsburg Declaration and Action Plan

THE WAY FORWARD TO 2015

Recalling the spirit and the objectives of the 1972 World Heritage Convention;

Recalling the recommendations and decisions made at subsequent World Heritage Committee Session and regional meetings undertaken through the Global Strategy the related activities developed in the Caribbean;

Considering the commitment of an increasing amount of regional Governments to prepare and nominate sites with outstanding cultural and natural heritage values for inscription on the World Heritage List;

Considering 2014 is the International Year of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), International Decade of People of African Decent (2015 – 2024), 10th Anniversary of the Declaration of Castries, 20th Anniversary of the UNESCO Slave Route Project, 20th Anniversary of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) and the 9th Anniversary of the Mauritius Strategy in strengthening communication and cooperation among SIDS;

Considering the results of the Caribbean training courses in the preparation of nomination dossiers Kingston (June 2012), Antigua and Barbuda (March 2013);

Recognizing that the Caribbean now has an increased cadre of trained professionals in Cultural and Natural Heritage;

Celebrating that The Commonwealth of The Bahamas has submitted instrument of ratification documents to the World Heritage Centre in February 2014;

Expressing appreciation to the Government of Sint Maarten for financing and hosting the May 2014 UNESCO Meeting on Capacity Building on Heritage Conservation in the Caribbean SIDS, and encouraging other Caribbean Governments to do the same;

Recognizing that Overseas Territories have a special position;

We, the representatives of Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Curacao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent & The Grenadines, Sint Maarten, Suriname, The Bahamas and Trinidad and Tobago:

Encourage the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the Field Offices in the Caribbean:

- To continue to support Caribbean SIDS Capacity Development Initiatives;
- To support future Caribbean Capacity Building Programmes (CCBP) on World Heritage;
- To keep systematic follow-up communications with/from the participants to ensure that the necessary steps are being taken to advance the various nomination dossiers.

Encourage States Parties:

- To engage tertiary level institutions in capacity building initiatives for Caribbean (World) Heritage;
- To set deadlines to have Tentative List submissions completed in time for next scheduled meeting to be hosted by St. Vincent and the Grenadines in 2015;
- To include Ministers or Permanent Secretaries at next meeting scheduled for 2015;
- To endeavor to establish a National World Heritage Committee by January 2015;
- To encourage SIDS Overseas Territories to liaise / negotiate with the mother countries for more flexible and expeditious arrangements for nominations / submissions;
- To adopt programmes to recognize World Heritage Day (April 18th) and the International Decade for the People of African Descent (2015 – 2024);
- To adopt an integrative process, along the lines of the Barbados (Historic Bridgetown and its Garrison) model;
- To commit financial, technical and human resources towards advancing the nomination process;
- To select participants, who are directly involved in the preparation of the actual dossier for the St. Vincent and Grenadines meeting in 2015;
- To sensitize CARICOM, OECS and other Regional Organizations of the outcomes and actions of the Caribbean Capacity Building Programme (CCBP);
- Stimulate:
 - Antigua and Barbuda to advance the nomination of Antigua Naval Dockyard by January 2015,
 - Suriname to advance the nomination of Jodensavanne and Cassipora Cemetery by January 2015,
 - Guyana to explore hosting a public awareness workshop in May 2015.

Encourage Participants:

- To identify whatever technical assistance / expertise is needed to advance the preparation of the nomination dossiers for submission to the World Heritage Centre;
- To bring to the proposed July 2015 meeting all work accomplished in their dossiers;
- To present these outcomes/declarations to their respective Secretaries-Generals of the National Commissions, particularly those with seats on the Executive Board (Belize, Dominican Republic, St. Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago);
- To keep the lines of communication between and among themselves and with UNESCO Field Offices and the World Heritage Centre open so as to build a sub-regional network of experts;
- To continue to discuss, explore and advance possible serial, transnational and/or trans-boundary nominations between and among State Parties.

Approved at Philipsburg, Sint Maarten by the representatives of all States Parties and Associated States on the 13th day of May in the year Two Thousand and Fourteen.