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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Forty-first session

Krakow, Poland
2 – 12 July 2017

Item 6 of the Provisional Agenda: Follow-up to the World Heritage Capacity-Building strategy and Progress report on the World Heritage-related category 2 centres

SUMMARY

By Decision **40 COM 6**, the World Heritage Committee requested the World Heritage Centre and ICCROM to submit a progress report on the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy and the activities of the category 2 centres related to World Heritage for examination by the Committee at its 41st session in 2017.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 6, see Part III.

I. FOLLOW UP TO THE CAPACITY- BUILDING STRATEGY

1. The World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy (WHCBS) was approved by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session (Paris, 2011) (Decision **35 COM 9B**). The Strategy was developed by ICCROM and IUCN in collaboration with ICOMOS, the World Heritage Centre, and other capacity-building partners such as the UNESCO category 2 centres in various regions of the world. The work was made possible by contributions from the World Heritage Fund and the Swiss Government, which also provided professional expertise.
2. Since the adoption of the WHCBS, the Advisory Bodies, the World Heritage Centre and capacity-building partners have been working to implement capacity-building activities at both the regional and international levels to address the needs of heritage practitioners, institutions (decision and policy makers) and other networks and communities (civil society at large). Continued reinforcement of the capacity-building pillar of the *Convention* continues to be a priority to equip States Parties with the relevant expertise to protect and manage their sites, as well as to ensure that the World Heritage List remains representative, credible and balanced.

A. Implementation of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy

3. Implementation of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy has entered into a new phase, with the launching of the World Heritage Leadership Programme during the IUCN World Conservation Congress held in Honolulu, Hawaii (USA) in September 2016. The programme, made possible with generous funding from the Ministry of Climate and Environment of Norway, marks a new step in improving nature-culture conservation practice carried out through the World Heritage Convention. The programme will support the contribution of World Heritage sites to sustainable development as foreseen in the new Policy for the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective In to the Processes of the World Heritage Convention.
4. World Heritage Leadership aims to build the skills of practitioners working through the World Heritage Convention. It takes into account the totality of conservation practice, so that World Heritage can provide leadership to achieve innovation and excellence within the conservation sector. The World Heritage Leadership programme will integrate nature and culture from the outset, centring on areas where World Heritage has the most compelling potential to address pressing challenges, such as climate change and impacts from development.
5. Five modules make up the programme, including 1) Effective Management: Nature, Culture, and Communities; 2) Resilience; 3) Impact Assessment; 4) Learning Sites; and 5) Leadership Networks. The programme will be implemented by ICCROM and IUCN in collaboration with ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre. The first training activity of the new programme, a course entitled, “Linking Nature and Culture in World Heritage Site Management” will take place from 6 – 16 June 2017 at the Røros Mining Town and the Circumference World Heritage Property in Norway. In addition to the Norwegian Government, funding for this course comes from long-time capacity building supporter, the Swiss Federal Office of Culture.
6. In 2017, it is expected that activities of the programme will increase with additional courses and work on the development of a variety of resource materials to aid States Parties in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. In the meantime, the following are a sample of the capacity-building activities that have taken place between the 40th and 41st sessions of the Committee in support of the WHCBS.
7. Concerning translation of key World Heritage resource manuals, the National Institute of Historic and Artistic Heritage (IPHAN) and the category 2 centre of Brazil (Centro Lúcio Costa) prepared and supported the Portuguese versions of two resource manuals –“Managing Natural World Heritage” and “Managing Cultural World Heritage”. The National Heritage Board of Poland

prepared and supported the translation in Polish of “Preparing World Heritage Nominations”. Finally, the German National Commission for UNESCO prepared and supported the translation of “Preparing World Heritage Nominations” and “Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage” in German. All these resource manuals are available on the website of the World Heritage Centre (see: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/resourcemanuals/>). The translation of these manuals aims to facilitate States Parties’ ability to prepare new nominations, as well as to protect and conserve their World Heritage properties.

8. There is currently a strong focus in capacity-building on the topic of linking cultural and natural heritage conservation and management. In addition to the World Heritage Leadership Programme and the ICOMOS/IUCN Connecting Practice programme, Tsukuba University is teaming up with IUCN, ICCROM, ICOMOS, and the World Heritage Centre to host a series of courses on this subject. The first course, held in September 2016, covered the issue of Agricultural Landscapes. It is expected that these courses will continue annually on different themes related culture-nature linkages.
9. As part of the Upstream Process for the Lake Ohrid Region, a group of culture and nature experts from seven southeast European countries came together in Albania and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in October 2016, to discuss how communities contribute to and benefit from heritage conservation. This course on “*People-Centred Approaches to the Conservation of Culture and Nature*”, gave practitioners knowledge and tools to engage communities in conservation and management. The ultimate goal was to empower communities to participate in decision-making around heritage. The mixed natural and cultural heritage of the Ohrid Region was particularly appropriate for advancing participatory heritage management, especially within the framework of the Upstream Process. Continuing its work on implementing courses on Heritage Impact Assessment, ICCROM partnered with the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITRAP–Shanghai Centre) on a course that took place at the World Heritage property of Vigan in the Philippines. It marked the first time that this biennial course took place outside of China. The course prepares countries with properties on the World Heritage list to determine how heritage could be adversely affected by potential development projects which may impact on Outstanding Universal Value. A second course on HIA was implemented in Zanzibar, Tanzania for the Africa region in partnership with the African World Heritage Fund. More information on these activities can be found below under regional capacity building.
10. The topic of monitoring of World Heritage properties was highlighted in a course carried out by ICCROM in partnership with the Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage and the Chinese State Administration of Cultural Heritage. The course took place at the Summer Palace World Heritage property and was attended by participants from around the world.
11. The area of disaster risk management including post-conflict situations remains a priority for ICCROM and its capacity building partners. The international course on First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis took place in Washington D.C. (USA) in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution and the Prince Claus Fund in June 2016. The annual International Training Course (ITC) on Disaster Risk Management of Cultural Heritage took place in Kyoto, Japan in September 2016 with partners Ritsumeikan University, ICCROM, the World Heritage Centre, and ICOMOS/ICORP. The theme for 2016 was on protecting cultural heritage from climate change induced disaster risks. 2016 was also the 10th anniversary of the course, and a symposium was held where seven former trainees made presentations of their current activities which had been developed through their case study project during the ITC. At a more local level, ICCROM, partnered with UNESCO and the Department of Archaeology of Myanmar on capacity building to develop strategies for first aid to heritage in earthquake situations and for the rapid condition assessment of the important mural painting at Bagan, a site on Myanmar’s Tentative List.

12. In the Arab States Region, several activities were implemented over the past year by the ICCROM-ATHAR Centre in Sharjah, in partnership with other organizations, towards assisting State Parties in this difficult period of conflict. These include a regional leadership course on “First Aid and Risk Management of Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis”, held in Sharjah, UAE from 4 – 31 October 2016, and a special roundtable on Post-Conflict Reconstruction of Historic Cities held in partnership with the Louvre-Lens Museum from 2 – 21 January 2017. The ICCROM-ATHAR Centre has also been working on Arabic translations of key texts including the resource manuals on Managing Cultural Heritage and Managing Disaster Risk, and a manual for activities related to the conservation of underwater cultural heritage.
13. ICCROM also continues to update information on regular training opportunities for World Heritage and for cultural heritage conservation in general as well as meetings, seminars, workshops, and other events and activities related to heritage conservation. This information is found in the “Classifieds” section of the ICCROM website as well as on ICCROM’s social media (Facebook and Twitter). These sources also contain significant information on conservation issues as well as educational and job opportunities in conservation. In addition, ICCROM, in partnership with the International Association for Classical Archaeology (AIAC), continues to produce *FASTI Online*, a new international database on archaeological conservation projects, and an associated, peer reviewed, open access journal, *Fasti Online Documents & Research (FOLD&R): Archaeological Conservation*.

B. Regional Capacity-Building Strategies

14. As part of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy, the World Heritage Centre, Advisory Bodies, category 2 centres and interested States Parties have also been working on the development and implementation of regional capacity-building strategies:
 - a) In the region of Asia and the Pacific, the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region in China (WHITR-AP) and ICCROM organised the 2016 Course on Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) at the World Heritage property “Historic Town of Vigan” (Philippines) in October 2016. This international course was attended by 20 participants, with priority being given to mid-career heritage practitioners, decision makers interested in engaging HIA as a tool, and representatives of those States Parties that have been requested by the Committee to carry out HIA for World Heritage properties. The course also used a training of trainers approach to reach a large audience as knowledge gets passed on. Other training and capacity-building workshops were held in Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Germany, Kazakhstan, Nepal and Uzbekistan to reinforce the capacities of States Parties with regard to the preparation of nomination dossiers and the sustainable management of World Heritage properties (details of these activities can be found in Document WHC/17/41.COM/5A).
 - b) Effective capacity-building represents one of the main objectives of the strategy for the implementation of the Regional Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean (2014-2024). The World Heritage Centre continues to support the institutional consolidation and reinforced cooperation with the two category 2 centres existing in the LAC region: the Centre Lucio Costa for Capacity-Building on Heritage Management (C2C-LCC) and the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (Mexico). Furthermore, the Centre Lucio Costa for Capacity-Building on Heritage Management (C2C-LCC) has undertaken a mandatory evaluation during 2016 (see para 23 below). In the period concerned, the Centre Lucio Costa has conducted a number of activities for the promotion, training and research on natural and cultural heritage. Most importantly, the Centre Lucio Costa organized in October 2016, with the full involvement of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, an International workshop on the fundamental notions of the 1972 Convention, aiming at establishing the content of a strategy contained in 8 capacity-building

modules to be implemented over the next four years. This programme will focus on the priorities identified during the development of the sub-regional action plans, in particular the one for South America adopted in 2015 in Cusco (Peru). While the administrative and management structure of the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (Mexico), is still under consolidation, a programme of activities is expected to be defined before the end of the current year, in line with the priorities of the Regional Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean and the upcoming sub-regional Action Plan for Mexico and Central America.

- c) The Helsinki Action Plan for Europe identified the reinforcement of site manager networks as a major capacity-building area, and the World Heritage Centre supported, through active participation, a number of sub-regional and thematic networking initiatives that favoured knowledge exchange and sub-regional cooperation. In Georgia, sustainable implementation of heritage protection and development needs are currently being reinforced within the framework of the project agreement between the World Heritage Centre and the Georgian authorities. The EU-funded second phase of the upstream project “Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region” is implemented with the support of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Albania and the three Advisory Bodies, ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN. The project carried out a number of capacity-building activities including the preparation of World Heritage nomination or building consensus around heritage values among a wide range of audiences. It aims to establish integrated values based management system for the potential mixed transboundary World Heritage property. Activities targeted heritage practitioners, organizations, and civil society representatives and promoted a people-centred approach, linking natural and cultural conservation concerns to the well-being of the local communities and the sustainable development of the entire Lake Ohrid region (Albania/the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). A new capacity-building area has been developed, in consultation with the Armenian authorities, in line with the Initiative on Heritage of Religious Interest. It aims to reinforce capacities of all relevant stakeholders, including the representatives of religious communities, involved in the management of the World Heritage properties.
- d) In the Africa region, the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), worked closely with the World Heritage Centre to strengthen capacities in the key areas of risk management and heritage conservation and assessment further to the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Africa Region and the regional Action Plan (2012-2017). Two training workshops in disaster risk management for World Heritage site managers and community representatives were organized in this regard at Brandberg National Monument Area (Namibia, June 2015 – October 2016) and at Dja Faunal Reserve (Cameroon April/May 2017). Furthermore, a workshop on Heritage Impact Assessment was held in Tanzania in November 2016. A total of 66 site managers and heritage professionals took part in these workshops. In response to the objective of the Action Plan to increase the number of World Heritage sites in the Africa region, the AWHF launched a World Heritage nomination support programme in collaboration with the Centre for Heritage Development in Africa (CHDA) and the Ecole du Patrimoine Africain (EPA), with technical support from the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies. This five-year programme was initiated in 2016 with two upstream process workshops in Togo (December 2016) and Kenya (January 2017) that brought together representatives from some 30 States Parties to identify priority sites for future nominations as well as areas for possible thematic studies. Priority has been given to engaging local communities, and particularly youth representatives, in the protection and conservation of African heritage. The World Heritage Centre has launched an initiative to ensure increased strategic focus on the integration of World Heritage in the curricula of African educational institutions, beginning with activities carried out in Senegal, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Burkina Faso, with financial support from the governments of Italy and the Netherlands. This initiative will be extended to the entire African continent, covering issues such as heritage education and conservation, risk management and inventories. In May 2017, the AWHF and WHC will organize an international seminar with participation of experts and officials

to examine issues related to the involvement and academic training of youth for the protection of African World Heritage. This seminar is organized in conjunction with the celebration of the 2nd edition of African World Heritage Day, and with the first Francophone African Regional World Heritage Youth Forum.

- e) In the framework of UNESCO's Strategy for the reinforcement of UNESCO's action for the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict, several capacity-building activities have been implemented by the UNESCO Field Offices in the Arab region, in coordination with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM, in order to train heritage professionals to mitigate risks and provide an emergency response for the conservation of cultural heritage in Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen. To date, a number of training courses have been provided, including: a training workshop focusing on aerial and ground documentation, photogrammetry and 3D modelling techniques (Baghdad, Iraq, November 2016) and a workshop on building documentation and damage assessment (Beirut, Lebanon, December 2016).
- f) In the Arab region, the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) based in Manama (Bahrein) continues to provide technical assistance to the Arab States Parties regarding the reinforcement of the management and conservation of World Heritage sites with a strong focus on natural properties. This includes several training workshops to reinforce the capacities of heritage professionals in the region, as well as a number of awareness-raising and communication activities to sensitize the public, particularly youth and students, to the importance of preserving World Heritage in the Arab States. The ARC-WH is actively following up on the implementation of the Response Plan that was elaborated right after two devastating cyclones hit the Socotra Archipelago in 2015; the Response Plan was referred to in the decision adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 40th Session in 2016. Technical assistance in natural heritage have been provided for Iraq and Yemen through the employment of locally-based national experts. ARC-WH continues its collaboration with IUCN through the Tabe'a partnership programme towards addressing major issues faced by natural heritage sites in the Arab region. In November 2016, ARC-WH organized in collaboration with UNESCO, at UNESCO's Headquarters, an International Conference on "Museums and World Heritage Sites" highlighting the role of museums as mediators responsible for conveying, and protecting the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of sites. The Conference showcased case studies from various World Heritage sites' museums from around the world. In terms of risk assessment during times of disaster and conflict, the ARC-WH pursues its support to the Amal in Heritage Programme for the rapid assessment of heritage through the elaboration of a dedicated application, in cooperation with Global Heritage Fund. ARC-WH continues to support the World Heritage Centre on regular basis in monitoring the state of conservation of inscribed properties; its representatives take an active part in all UNESCO's technical meetings related to the safeguarding of cultural heritage under conflicts. Finally, ARC-WH has also provided financial and technical support to the World Heritage Centre in the implementation of the World Heritage regional programme for the Arab States.

C. Other Capacity-Building Activities

- 15. A capacity enhancement workshop is planned in Cabo Verde in May 2017 to support a number of States Parties (Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, Guinea Bissau and Angola) in the initial phases of implementing the 1972 Convention. A number of capacity-building and technical assistance activities, notably in Mauritius, Mozambique, Burkina Faso, Gabon, Niger and Cameroon, focussed on enhancing the involvement of local communities and integrating traditional management systems in the conservation of World Heritage sites. In the framework of the Central Africa World Heritage Forest Initiative (CAWHFI), a regional capacity-building workshop was held in June 2016 in Cameroon to support conservation activities and the enhancement of the management of natural properties in Central Africa. In Mali, the programme for the rehabilitation of

World Heritage in the north of the country continues to provide training for a large number of stakeholders concerned with heritage conservation. MINUSMA staff continues to receive regular training to raise awareness on the protection of cultural heritage in Mali, and other actions helped strengthen the capacities of Malian experts in the preparation, management and technical implementation of heritage-related projects.

16. In March 2017, a 3-day training workshop was conducted by the Institute for Hydraulic Engineering and Water Resources Management of the RWTH Aachen University (Germany), in the framework of the International Assistance granted to Afghanistan for the World Heritage property “Minaret and Archaeological Remains of Jam”. This workshop was attended by three Afghan engineers and served as a platform to present the results of the analyses carried out as a part of capacity-building activities for hydraulic engineering and the monitoring of the Hari Rud and Jam Rud rivers undertaken by the RWTH Aachen University. In October 2016, an international symposium entitled ‘The Conservation of Brick Monuments at World Heritage sites’ was held in Ayutthaya (Thailand), with the support of the Netherlands Funds-In-Trust. This symposium was an opportunity to increase awareness and recognition around international conservation standards for brick sites and associated monuments. It also helped to further develop technical skills amongst brick craftspeople who use brick and lime building techniques in their daily work.
17. Significant progress has been made with regard to capacity development for World Heritage site managers and other tourism stakeholders in South-East Asia. The UNESCO World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme provided technical support to a capacity building project in South-East Asia, funded under the Malaysian Funds-in-Trust and implemented by UNESCO Jakarta Office. Entitled “The Power of Culture: Supporting Community-Based Management and Sustainable Tourism at World Heritage sites in South-East Asia”, the project focused on three sites in the region: Melaka and George Town, Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca (Malaysia), Cultural Landscape of Bali Province: the Subak System as a Manifestation of the Tri Hita Karana Philosophy (Indonesia) and the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines). The project resulted in the development of sustainable tourism strategies and action plans for two of the three pilot sites and will be used as good practice examples for other World Heritage properties.
18. In the framework of the European Union (EU) funded project “UNESCO Cultural World Heritage Sites in Europe”, a first round of capacity building workshops was organized enabling site managers and other tourism stakeholders to set out key priorities for the project, including developing marketing and sustainable tourism management plans for the sites participating in the initiative. The project aims to develop thematic journeys across the EU to raise the profile of World Heritage in certain tourism source markets, particularly in China and North America. This is particularly significant in the lead up to 2018, which is both the European Year of Cultural Heritage and the EU-China Tourism Year, where the project will feature prominently. The project is being implemented by UNESCO and National Geographic, and will develop a tourism focused web platform which will educate and inspire people to travel sustainably, partake in local cultural experiences and support creative industries (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/875/>).
19. Another example of a capacity-building activity that facilitates the sharing of best practices in heritage management among site managers is the thematic network developed within the framework of the World Heritage Marine Programme since 2010. This currently includes 49 marine sites in 37 countries, and allows for the continuous exchange of information through a web-based platform, newsletters, regional meetings and triennial global site managers conferences. The third site managers conference took place in the Galapagos Islands (Ecuador, August 2016), and aimed to build capacity on climate adaptation strategies and market-based approaches to strengthen sustainable fisheries, and further strengthen the sharing of management solutions and best practices among 49 marine World Heritage sites. During the conference, seven World Heritage marine sites in the Eastern Tropical Pacific Region signed an agreement, the Carta de Punta

Suarez, to scale up regional cooperation (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/future-marine-world-heritage-2016>).

20. The World Heritage programme for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) has implemented a project “Capacity Building to Support the Conservation of World Heritage Sites and Enhance Sustainable Development of Local Communities in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)” through the Japanese Funds-in-Trust. Within this framework, the preparation of a nomination file on “Nan Madol: Ceremonial Centre of Eastern Micronesia” was supported and the property was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2016. Furthermore, the participation of a representative from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) to the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee was supported, which has helped develop the FSM’s capacities with regard to important current conservation issues and has led to a better understanding of the decision-making processes and the Committee’s deliberations, and helped establish working relationships between the FSM and some of the States Parties and Committee Members.
21. In regard to physical conservation of built heritage including at World Heritage properties, ICCROM continues with its biennial International Course on Wood Conservation Technology which took place in 2016 in Oslo, Norway. Preparations are also underway for a wood conservation course in September 2017 at the World Heritage property of Kizhi Pogost in the Russian Federation. A regional course for Latin America on conservation of stone took place in Mexico as part of the LATAM programme, in partnership with the Coordinación Nacional de Conservación del Patrimonio Cultural (CNCPC-INAH). A regional course on conservation of archaeological sites and objects in the Asia and Pacific region was held in September 2016 in partnership with the ACCU Nara Office.
22. ICCROM has also held a series of forums over the past few years in partnership with the Cultural Heritage Administration (CHA) of Republic of Korea to better develop issues of heritage conservation in an Asian context, particularly in relation to World Heritage. The December 2016 forum took place in Beijing, China in partnership with Tsinghua University, on the theme of National Conservation Policies.
23. The commitment of the Ministry of Climate and Environment of the Government of Norway to the six-year World Heritage Leadership programme is a very important step forward in ensuring a solid base for capacity building within the framework of the World Heritage Convention. The Swiss Federal Office of Culture is also continuing to fund a number of the activities in 2017, and ICCROM, IUCN, ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre also continues to play their part. Nevertheless, the World Heritage Leadership programme was designed with an understanding that there would be a need for additional partners from States Parties and other organizations to ensure the full implementation of the programme. Without additional resources, it will not be possible to reach the full results as foreseen. In addition, as can be seen in the text above, there are a number of other capacity building initiatives being carried out at the regional and international levels by category 2 centres and other capacity building partners. These initiatives also need support in order to effectively improve the capacities of practitioners, institutions, and communities to better care for their World Heritage properties.

II. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WORLD HERITAGE RELATED CATEGORY 2 CENTRES

24. Part II of this document presents activities and recent news and developments regarding the category 2 institutes and centres related to World Heritage, one of the key players for the implementation of the WHCBS.

A. Activities of the category 2 centres

25. As required, individual progress reports are prepared by each of the category 2 centres to inform, in detail, of their activities since the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee (Istanbul 2016).

Given the volume of the information, these reports will be posted on the website of the World Heritage Centre (see: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/category2centres/>). Amongst all pertinent information concerning the activities of the centres, the reports also include a table indicating programmes and activities that are implemented or planned within the framework of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy. Some examples of activities are also highlighted in Part I B. above.

B. Establishment and reviews of category 2 centres

26. In conformity with the integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres adopted by the 37th General Conference of UNESCO, an evaluation of the Regional Heritage Management Training Centre "Lucio Costa" (LCC) was carried out in spring-summer 2016. Overall, the evaluation has found that the Centre has fulfilled its objectives and functions, as set out in the Agreement between UNESCO and the Federative Republic of Brazil, and is implementing its activities in conformity with the Agreement, and thus recommends the renewal of the Centre as a category 2 centre of UNESCO. The evaluation has also identified key strengths of the LCC such as the committed support of the Brazilian government, the dedication and professionalism of the personnel and the positive impact of its various activities in the Latin American region, as well as African and Asian regions. The evaluation also noted that the LCC has great potential in the next years to grow and further strengthen its capacities to become a more effective partner in the region. It also identified several challenges and put forward a number of recommendations to improve the Centre's effectiveness such as to have a more focused scope on the World Heritage Convention and to improve coordination between the LCC and the other category 2 centres (the full evaluation report is available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/category2centres/>). In light of both the evaluation's recommendations and the integrated comprehensive strategy, negotiations are underway between UNESCO and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil on the final terms of the new agreement for submission to the 202nd Executive Board of UNESCO (October 2017) for its decision on the renewal of the agreement for another six-year period.
27. The evaluation of the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH, Bahrein) started in March 2017 and the outcome of the evaluation will be submitted to the 202nd session of the Executive Board for decision on the renewal of the agreement for another six-year period.
28. Following a request for action, feasibility studies are being conducted in conformity with the integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres with regard to the creation of the following new centres related to World Heritage:
 - Centre for Human Evolution, Adaptations and Dispersals in South East Asia (Jakarta, Indonesia);
 - Centre for Safeguarding Urban Heritage of the Arab World (Rabat, Morocco).

The results of the feasibility studies will be presented to the Executive Board at its 202nd session (October 2017), which shall make appropriate recommendations to the next General Conference (39th session, November 2017) for its decision about the establishment of these centres.

29. The number of category 2 centres formally related to World Heritage remains unchanged from last year. Thus far, there are eight centres fully affiliated to the Culture Sector. The International Centre on Space Technologies for Cultural and Natural Heritage (HIST), based in China, deals with heritage protection and takes part in coordination meetings, but is administratively affiliated to the Science Sector within UNESCO. If the General Conference approves the creation of the above-

mentioned new centres, the number of the centres fully affiliated to the Culture Sector will increase from eight to ten.

C. Application of the new integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 centres

30. In conformity with the integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 centres, three centres have been evaluated until now: the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITR-AP), the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), and the Regional Heritage Management Training Centre "Lucio Costa". The renewal of two of these centres (WHITR-AP and AWHF) has been approved by the Executive Board of UNESCO. The agreement has been renewed for WHITR-AP and the renewal agreement for AWHF is to be signed in spring 2017. The renewal of "Lucio Costa" Centre and the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH, Bahrein) is scheduled to be examined by the Executive Board of UNESCO in October 2017. By end 2017, four out of eight C2Cs related to World Heritage and under the responsibility of the Culture Sector would have completed the renewal exercise in compliance with the new strategy. The Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas is to be evaluated and renewed by 2020. The agreement of the World Natural Heritage Management and Training for the Asia and Pacific Region (WNHMT, Dehradun, India) and the International Training and Research Centre on the Economics of Culture and World Heritage Studies (ITRECH, Turin, Italy) have been signed but have not yet entered into force. These C2Cs have been requested to notify UNESCO of the completion of the necessary formalities for entry into force of the agreement. Therefore, the renewal of these centres cannot take place before 2023 at the earliest. The International Centre for Rock Art and the World Heritage Convention in Spain still remains as the only centre without a signed agreement.

D. Coordination

31. The fifth Annual Coordination Meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage-related category 2 institutes and centres took place in Dehradun, India on 22 November 2016. The UNESCO category 2 centre on World Natural Heritage Management and Training for the Asia and Pacific Region (WNHMT) at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) hosted the meeting on its campus. Nineteen participants, including representatives of four category 2 centres, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Advisory Bodies, Regional Institutes and Universities and UNESCO Chairs took part in the meeting. The objective of the 2016 meeting was to build institutional capacity through a focus on international cooperation and to build synergies for effective natural heritage conservation.
32. The next annual coordination meeting is planned to take place in South Africa in fall 2017 or early 2018 and will be hosted by the African World Heritage Fund.
33. As a follow-up to the first coordination meeting with category 2 institutes and centres and UNITWIN Networks/UNESCO Chairs related to the UNESCO Culture Sector held in December 2015, an online platform is being developed to strengthen links and collaboration among UNESCO and these strategic partners. Its construction is undertaken in close collaboration with the Institute for African Culture and International Understanding (IACIU) Abeokuta, Nigeria, the Kadir Has University, Istanbul, Turkey and the Polytechnique University of Valencia, Spain. It is envisaged that the online platform will be officially launched at the second coordination meeting expected to take place in the fall of 2017.

III. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision 41 COM 6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/6,*
2. *Recalling Decision 40 COM 6 (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016),*
3. *Commends the progress made in the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy (WHCBS), its accompanying World Heritage Capacity-Building Programme, and the capacity-building activities carried out in 2016 and in the beginning of 2017;*
4. *Notes with appreciation the committment of the Government of Norway to the six-year, World Heritage Leadership Programme, as well as the ongoing support for capacity building by the Government of Switzerland;*
5. *Calls upon other States Parties and organizations to provide additional funding and support for the implementation of the World Heritage Leadership Programme and other activities as part of the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy at the international and regional levels;*
6. *Takes note of the development of the regional capacity-building strategies and initiatives, and calls upon States Parties and all concerned partners and stakeholders to follow-up on the implementation of the strategies developed for each region;*
7. *Also welcomes the progress made by all category 2 centres related to World Heritage in implementing their activities and calls on interested stakeholders to support these activities;*
8. *Requests the World Heritage Centre and ICCROM to submit a progress report on the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy and the activities of the category 2 centres related to World Heritage for examination by the Committee at its 42nd session in 2018.*