

NORDIC WORLD HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Report for the 37th Session of the World Heritage Committee

15 February 2013

Background and mandate of the Centre:

The Nordic World Heritage Foundation (NWHF) was established as a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO and the World Heritage Convention (1972) in 2003.

NWHF's mission is to promote the implementation of the World Heritage Convention (1972) and Global Strategy (1994) within the context of sustainable development, the UN Millennium Development Goals (UNMDGs) and the UN framework on climate change.

NWHF's mandate is to support the Secretariat of UNESCO and act as a focal point for the Nordic countries by facilitating technical expertise, disseminating information and contributing to innovative projects in support of the World Heritage Convention.

NWHF's Strategy 2010 - 2014 outlines the three Strategic Objectives of the Foundation: SO1: Promote Sustainable Development through Tourism; SO2: Strengthen the Periodic Reporting tool; and SO3: Support the implementation of the UNESCO Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for Category 2 Institutes and Centres (35C/22).

NWHF has a Nordic-Baltic as well as international mandate through the commitment to support UNESCO's strategic priorities in relation to promote North-South, South-South and triangular collaboration. The Foundation specifically serves the States Parties and Committee Members within the Nordic-Baltic Region, and seeks to benefit the broader World Heritage Community. International focus is on Africa, Asia/Pacific and the Arctic.

Institutional and operational structure of the Centre (Governing Board, Staffing, Operational funding and premises):

The Board of Directors is the supreme body of the Foundation and consists of representatives from the Nordic Governments and the Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre (WHC). The Norwegian Ministry of the Environment (MoE) is a permanent observer to the Board.

The secretariat is based in Oslo, Norway, with three permanent staff members.

While the Norwegian MoE provides an annual basic funding, all activities and initiatives are fundraised for separately. In 2013 the basic funding amounts to NOK 5 132 million.

Programs and activities implemented since June 2012 and plans for the current year:

Strategic Objective 1: Promote Sustainable Development through tourism

1. In June 2012 the World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism (WH+ST) Programme was adopted (WHC-12/36.COM/5E) during the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee in Saint Petersburg, Russia. Upon request from the World Heritage Centre and financially supported by the Government of Switzerland, NWHF contributed with technical assistance in the development of the Programme.
2. As a contribution to the new WH+ST Programme Action Plan 2013-2015, NWHF has developed the Project *Towards a Nordic-Baltic pilot region for World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism*. The goal of the Project is to contribute to tools for assessing and developing sustainable tourism at World Heritage Properties. The Project, which is endorsed by the World Heritage Centre, will run from March 2013 to November 2014.

Strategic Objective 2: Strengthen the Periodic Reporting Tool

1. The 2nd Cycle of PR for Europe was launched in 2012 (cf. Decision 36 COM 10B). NWHF is mandated to act as a Focal Point, facilitator and coordinator of the 2nd Cycle of PR in the Nordic-Baltic sub-region (State Party meeting in Stockholm, 09/12/09). NWHF has facilitated, organised and supported several capacity-building initiatives in the sub-region; contributed towards integration of PR in national planning and capacity building programmes; clarified technical matters and supported the submission of Statements of Outstanding Universal Value and PR questionnaires. NWHF is actively promoting the Nordic-Baltic network model for implementation of the PR exercise in Europe, where a “train the trainers” approach to capacity building is utilised.
2. Following NWHF’s technical assistance to WHC’s Africa Unit towards the PR for Africa (cf. *WHC-11/35COM/10A*), NWHF contributed towards drafting of the Action Plan, adopted at the 36th Session of the World Heritage Committee (cf. Decision 36 COM 10/D). A joint project between UNESCO-WHC/P/AFR, AWHF and NWHF following up on PR through the regional Action Plan for Africa received funding from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in July 2012 for the first three years of implementation.

Strategic Objective 3: Implementation of 35C/22

1. Following the 1st and 2nd Annual Meetings of the C2 Institutes and Centres (in Manama, Bahrain and Milano, Italy 2012), the 3rd Annual Meeting took place in Oslo, Norway, 5-8 March 2013. The meeting was organised by NWHF in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, and funded by the Norwegian Government.
2. NWHF has a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)/Letter of Intent (LoI) with the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), World Heritage WHITR-AP and the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH). Cooperation has included direct collaboration,, project development, institutional development and observer status at the Boards. NWHF will continue to maintain and strengthen the relationship with other C2 Centres and Institutes.
3. NWHF and AWHF have since 2010 built capacity through the exchange of personnel funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs through FK Norway. The Programme has in total included six exchange participants. Due to of FK’s new policy, prohibiting support to organisations with less than five employees, the Programme was terminated in January 2013.
4. NWHF continues to raise funds to secure Least Developed Countries’ (LDCs) participation in the annual World Heritage Committee meetings. In 2012, NWHF secured 115 720 NOK allowing attendance of four participants from LDCs at 36COM.

Website of the Centre: www.nwhf.no

Designated Focal Point:

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