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THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

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**Item 15 of the Provisional Agenda:** International Assistance

- INF.15. Part I. Update on the new database on International Assistance  
Part II. International Assistance requests processed by the World Heritage  
Centre during the biennium 2008-2009

## SUMMARY

This document contains under Part I an update on the new database on International Assistance and under Part II the status of the International Assistance budget for the biennium 2008-2009 and International Assistance requests processed by the World Heritage Centre from 1st January 2008 to 10 May 2009.

## **I. Update on the new database on International Assistance**

1. The new International Assistance database organizes the information according to how a request is processed. It takes into account the data available within the new application form and the existing working tools used at the World Heritage Centre, making the links to the World Heritage List, List of World Heritage In Danger, World Heritage Committee Decisions and working documents. The information compiles statistics/reports on types of International Assistance, properties, countries, regions, amounts approved, etc. A keyword searching tool is also available. The properties and the States Parties web pages now contain a tab called "International assistance" listing all the requests granted to inscribed properties.

2. The database is accessible through the UNESCO World Heritage Centre website (<http://whc.unesco.org>); all the data contained in the old Access databases were migrated into this database in May 2008. There are different levels of accessibility, restricting the information access and changes that can be made, so as to preserve data integrity and avoid duplications. The database has been used by the World Heritage Centre staff since May 2008 and by the Advisory Bodies to fill in their comments directly on-line since December 2008. In addition, since 29 April 2009 the States Parties have access to it through a user account in order to fill in the application form on-line (a circular letter was sent to all States Parties on 30 April 2009 to inform them on this new possibility). The Chairperson also has access to this database to enter his/her decisions on-line. A system of automatic email alerts generated by the database at each step of the process has been designed. Access will also be given to the general public for a restricted type of information, such as general statistics on amount granted per year, per region, per country or by type of assistance.

3. Future developments are foreseen concerning the design of user-friendly reports as well as the inclusion of all information on approved budgets for International Assistance since 1978; the design of a check-list for the Advisory Bodies based on Annex 9 of the *Operational Guidelines*; the links to the status of contributions to the World Heritage Fund, to the Tentative Lists and to UNESCO's financial management system (FABS) in order to track project implementation and to obtain statistics on amounts implemented.

4. As the old database system was not sufficiently secured, the World Heritage Centre has had to undertake an important data-cleaning task which is being executed over several months.

II. International Assistance requests processed by the World Heritage Centre in 2008-2009

A. International Assistance Budget 2008-2009 as of 10 May 2009

	Total budget 2008-2009	Total approved 2008-2009			Available for approval in 2009
<b>PREPARATORY ASSISTANCE AND CONSERVATION &amp; MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE</b>		<b>Preparatory assistance</b>	<b>Conservation &amp; Management assistance</b>	<b>Total</b>	
<b>Cultural heritage</b> (65% as per Committee's decision)	<b>910 000</b>	<b>80 000</b> <i>(4 requests)</i>	<b>208 652</b> <i>(9 requests)</i>	<b>288 652</b> <i>(13 requests)</i>	<b>591 398</b>
<b>Natural heritage</b> (35% as per Committee's decision)	<b>490 000</b>	<b>83 712</b> <i>(3 requests)</i>	<b>114 000</b> <i>(4 requests)</i>	<b>197 712</b> <i>(7 requests)</i>	<b>262 338</b>
<b>Mixed heritage</b> (half culture, half nature)		<b>29 900</b> <i>(1 request)</i>	<b>30 000</b> <i>(1 request)</i>	<b>59,900</b> <i>(2 requests)</i>	
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>1 400 000</b>	<b>193 612</b>	<b>352 652</b>	<b>546 264</b>	<b>853 736</b>

Note: all figures are in USD

	Total budget 2008-2009	Total approved 2008-2009		Available for approval in 2009
<b>EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE</b>	<b>400 000</b>	<b>304 948</b>		<b>95 052</b>
<b>Cultural heritage</b>	<i>no earmarking</i>	<b>189 948</b> <i>(3 requests)</i>		
<b>Natural heritage</b>	<i>no earmarking</i>	<b>115 000</b> <i>(2 requests)</i>		
<b>Mixed heritage</b> (half culture, half nature)		<b>0</b>		

Note: all figures are in USD

**B. 27 INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTS APPROVED IN 2008-2009 (as of 10 May 2009)**

Region	State Party	Title	Name of properties	Amount approved (in USD)	Approval date	Criteria applied (based on Advisory Bodies' comments)
<b>PREPARATORY ASSISTANCE (8 requests)</b>				<b>193 612</b>		
<b>Culture (4 requests)</b>				<b>80 000</b>		
AFR	Angola	Preparation of the nomination file for inscription of the historic city of M'banza Kongo on the World Heritage List (Revised)	Ruin of M'banza Kongo ( <i>on Tentative List since 1996</i> )	30 000	26 June 2008	A.1, A.2, B.3, C.10, C.14, C.15, D.18, D.20, E.24, E.27, E.28
APA	Fiji	Development of legislative protection for the conservation of heritage in Levuka and development of a Management Plan for Levuka	Levuka ( <i>on Tentative List since 1999</i> )	15 000	25 March 2008	A.1, A.2, B.3, C.11, C.14, D.18, E.24, E.27, E.28
APA	Dem. Rep. of Korea	Preparation of nomination and management plan for the historical monuments and sites in Kaesong.	Historical Relics in Kaesong ( <i>on Tentative List since 2000</i> )	25 000	16 February 2009	A.1, A.2, B.3, C.10, C.14, C.15, D.18, D.20, E.24, E.25, E.27, E.28
EUR	Ukraine	Preparation of the nomination file for inscription on the World Heritage List of the Complex of the Sudak Fortress Monuments of the 6th- 16th c. (Ukraine)	Complex of the Sudak Fortress Monuments of the 6th - 16th c. ( <i>on Tentative List since 2007</i> )	10 000	3 June 2008	A.1, A.2, C.10, C.14, C.15, D.18, D.20, E.24, E.25, E.27, E.28
<b>Nature (3 requests)</b>				<b>83 712</b>		
AFR	Guinea-Bissau	Elaboration of the nomination file for the Bijagos Archipelago on the World Heritage List	Réserve de Biosphère de l'Archipel des Bijagos ( <i>on Tentative List since 2006</i> )	23 712	30 May 2008	A.1, A.2, C.10, C.14, C.15, D.18, E.24, E.27, E.28
APA	Kazakhstan	Preparatory work for Transboundary Nomination of "Western Tien-Shan": Sub-regional Meeting and preparation of the nomination of the Western Tien-Shan as transboundary natural heritage site (including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan)		30 000	25 June 2008	A.1, A.2, C.10, C.14, C.15, D.18, E.24, E.27, E.28

Region	State Party	Title	Name of properties	Amount approved (in USD)	Approval date	Criteria applied (based on Advisory Bodies' comments)
LAC	Colombia	Seaflower Marine Protected Area, Colombia: Nomination of a natural property	Seaflower Marine Protected Area ( <i>on Tentative List since 2007</i> )	30 000	27 June 2008	A.1, A.2, C.10, C.14, C.15, D.18, E.24, E.25, E.27, E.28
<b>Mixed (1 request)</b>				<b>29 900</b>		
ARB	Egypt	First International Seminar on serial nomination of properties connected with Astronomy		29 900	14 April 2009	A.1, A.2, B.5, C.10, C.11, C.12, C.13, D.18, E.30
<b>CONSERVATION &amp; MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE (14 requests)</b>				<b>352 652</b>		
<b>Culture (9 requests)</b>				<b>208 652</b>		
AFR	Ethiopia	The development of architectural and urban projects in the Historical City of Harar and its surroundings (buffer zone) for a better preservation of the integrity and authenticity of the property	Harar Jugol, the Fortified Historic Town ( <i>on the World Heritage List since 2006</i> )	4 950	25 July 2008	n.a.
ARB	Jordan	Investigations for the restoration of the Stylite Tower at Um er-Rasas	Um er-Rasas ( <i>on the World Heritage List since 2004</i> )	18 750	16 February 2009	A.1, A.2, C.10, C.11, C.12, C.15, C.16, C.17, D.18, E.34, E.35
APA	India	Follow up on the Periodic Reporting for World Heritage Sites in India; Workshop for exchange and capacity building of Indian World Heritage site managers		30 000	28 May 2008	A.1, A.2, B.5, B.6, B.8, C.10, C.14, D.18, D.20, E.37, E.39
APA	Turkmenistan	Technical assistance for conserving AK-Kala fortress and strengthening the top of Kutlug Timur minaret	Kunya-Urgench ( <i>on the World Heritage List since 2005</i> )	29 992	1 July 2008	A.1, A.2, C.10, C.11, C.12, C.13, C.15, D.18, D.19, E.34, E.35

Region	State Party	Title	Name of properties	Amount approved (in USD)	Approval date	Criteria applied (based on Advisory Bodies' comments)
APA	Cambodia	Conservation and Management of the Preah Vihear Temple	Temple of Preah Vihear (on the World Heritage List since 2008)	30 000	3 February 2009	A.1, A.2, B.3, C.10, C.12, C.13, C.15, D.18, E.34, E.35
APA	Vanuatu	Buffer zone land-use planning and heritage management project for Chief Roi Mata's Domain	Chief Roi Mata's Domain (on the World Heritage List since 2008)	30 000	16 February 2009	A.1, A.2, B.3, C.10, C.11, C.12, C.13, C.14, D.18, E.34, E.35
EUR	Bosnia & Herzegovina	Establishment of a monitoring system for the Old Bridge of Mostar	Old Bridge Area of the Old City of Mostar (on the World Heritage List since 2005)	29 960	16 February 2009	A.1, A.2, C.10, C.11, C.12, C.13, C.15, D.18, E.34, E.35, E.36
EUR	Ukraine	Organization at the St. Sophia Cathedral of Kiev of the National Centre for Education, Information and Awareness Raising of the Cultural Heritage Management and Protection		5 000	04 May 2009	n.a.
LAC	Mexico	Conservation and restoration of the mural paintings and stone decorated facade of the Dean's House in Puebla, Mexico	Historic Centre of Puebla (on the World Heritage List since 1987)	30 000	16 February 2009	A.1, A.2, C.10, C.11, C.12, C.15, D.18, D.20, E.34
<b>Nature (4 requests)</b>				<b>114 000</b>		
AFR	Ethiopia	Opening Arkuasiye Critical Wildlife Corridor by facilitating voluntarily the relocation of villagers	<b>Simien National Park (on the World Heritage List since 1978, and on the List of World Heritage in Danger since 1996)</b>	30 000	27 June 2008	A.1, A.2, B.3, B.4, C.10, C.11, C.12, C.14, D.18, D.20, E.34, E.35
AFR	Seychelles	Enhancing marine biodiversity monitoring, surveillance and conservation on Aldabra Atoll	Aldabra Atoll (on the World Heritage List since 2002)	30 000	16 February 2009	A.1, A.2, C.10, C.11, C.15, C.17, D.18, D.20, E.34, E.35

Region	State Party	Title	Name of properties	Amount approved (in USD)	Approval date	Criteria applied (based on Advisory Bodies' comments)
LAC	Bolivia	Participation of 12 rangers from World Heritage sites of South America in the 6th World Congress for Park Rangers in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia		30 000	14 April 2009	A.1, A.2, B.5, B.8, B.9, C.10, C.11, C.12, D.18, D.19, E.39
LAC	Costa Rica	"CATIE's XXXth International Protected Areas Course: Ecosystem Management of Buffer Zones and Biological Corridors at the Landscape scale"		24 000	15 October 2008	A.1, A.2, B.7, B.8, C.10, C.12, C.13, C.14, D.18, E.37, E.39, E.40, E.41, E.42, E.43
<b>Mixed (1 request)</b>				<b>30 000</b>		
LAC	Dominican Republic	Assistance for the Training of Dominican Experts in the Application of the World Heritage Convention (conservation and management)		30 000	4 June 2008	A.1, A.2, B.8, C.10, C.13, C.14, D.18, E.37, E.39, E.40, E.42, E.43
<b>EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE (5 requests)</b>				<b>304 948</b>		
<b>Culture (3 requests)</b>				<b>189 948</b>		
APA	China	Post earthquake assistance for Mount Qingcheng and the Dujiangyan Irrigation System (Revised request)	Mount Qingcheng and the Dujiangyan Irrigation System ( <i>on the World Heritage List since 2000</i> )	40 000	17 June 2008	A.2, C.10, C.11, C.12, C.13, C.15, D.18, E.21, E.22, E.23
LAC	Cuba	Recovery of the Historic Urban Centre of the city of Camaguey from the damage occasioned as a consequence of the hurricane Ike.	Historic Urban Centre of Camagüey ( <i>on the World Heritage List since 2008</i> )	74 948	3 February 2009	A.2, C.10, C.11, C.12, C.15, D.18, E.21, E.22, E.23
LAC	Cuba	Instrumentation of aid of emergency for the recovery of the Valley of Viñales, World Heritage site affected by hurricanes Gustav and Ike	Viñales Valley ( <i>on the World Heritage List since 1999</i> )	75 000	3 February 2009	A.2, C.10, C.11, C.12, C.15, D.18, E.21, E.22, E.23

Region	State Party	Title	Name of properties	Amount approved (in USD)	Approval date	Criteria applied (based on Advisory Bodies' comments)
<b>Nature (2 requests)</b>				<b>115 000</b>		
APA	Bangladesh	Re-establishing essential management capacity in the Sundarbans WH site following the passage of cyclone Sidr	The Sundarbans ( <i>on the World Heritage List since 1997</i> )	75 000	9 April 2008	A.2, B.3, B.5, B.8, E.21, C.10, C.11, C.12, C.14, C.15, C.16, C.17, D.18, D.19, E.21, E.23
APA	China	Post earthquake assistance for the field investigation and rehabilitation of the Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries (Revised request)	Sichuan Giant Panda Sanctuaries ( <i>on the World Heritage List since 2006</i> )	40 000	17 June 2008	A.2, C.10, C.11, C.12, C.13, C.15, D.18, E.21, E.22, E.23

**22 International Assistance requests examined in 2008-2009 and still pending  
(as of 10 May 2009)**

Region	Country / Title of request	Date of panel meeting	Amount requested (USD)	Status
<b>PREPARATORY ASSISTANCE REQUESTS</b>			<b>273 816</b>	
<b>Cultural heritage</b>			<b>109 835</b>	
AFR	<b>Swaziland:</b> preparation of the nomination dossier for Ngwenya Old Mines - Lion Cavern.	31 January 2008	27 800	The panel recommended to send the request back to the State Party with comments from Advisory Bodies, taking also note that Ngwenya Old Mines – Lion Cavern is not yet on the Tentative List. Ngwenya Mines was put on Swaziland's Tentative List on 31/12/2008, but no revised request has yet been submitted.
AFR	<b>Cameroon:</b> nomination of the Lobe Cultural Landscape on the the World Heritage List	16 January 2009	25 885	The panel recommended to refer back to the State Party for the request to be revised to integrate a comparative analysis. Moreover, a two-stage approach should appear in the budget where the funding of the comparative analysis should be clearly mentioned. If the revised version is fine with the Advisory Bodies, it will be submitted to the Chairperson for approval of USD 25 885 without going back to the panel. No revised request received so far.
AFR	<b>Benin:</b> Project to elaborate a dossier for the extension of the inscription of the Benin property "L'habitat vernaculaire Betamaribe" on the World Heritage List	<i>Not yet held</i>	26 150	Request received on 24 February 2009, sent to the Advisory Bodies for evaluation on 10 March 2009. No comments received to date.
ARB	<b>Syrian Arab Republic:</b> Helping the Directorate General of Antiquities & Museums to prepare the nomination file of the archaeological site of Mari, to be listed on the World Heritage List	<i>Not yet held</i>	30 000	Request received on 28 January 2009 under the 2005 format. Revised version under the 2008 format received on 23 March 2009. ICOMOS' comments received on 9 April 2009. Pending ICCROM's comments, and then panel review.
<b>Natural heritage</b>			<b>89 003</b>	
ARB	<b>Egypt:</b> Preparation of the nomination file including management plan for the Dababiya geological site	<i>Not yet held</i>	29 800	Request received on 22 January 2009; sent to the Advisory Bodies for evaluation on 9 February 2009. IUCN comments received on 16 February 2009; pending panel review.

Region	Country / Title of request	Date of panel meeting	Amount requested (USD)	Status
ARB	<b>Sudan:</b> Preparation of a nomination file for the natural serial site of Sangeneb Atoll and Dongonab Bay	<i>Not yet held</i>	29 500	Received on 21 April 2009; sent to the Advisory Bodies for evaluation on 23 April 2009.
EUR	<b>Russian Federation:</b> International Training Workshop on Preparation of Trilateral (Russia-Mongolia-China) Transboundary World Heritage Nomination "Daurian Steppes"	31 January 2008	29 703	The panel recommended to contact the State Party, and see if a request could be submitted by Mongolia after taking into consideration the panel's comments and also encouraging cooperation between Mongolia and China for inclusion of this site on their respective Tentative Lists. No reply received so far.
<b>Mixed heritage</b>			<b>74 978</b>	
APA	<b>Samoa:</b> Samoa's Heritage project: Preparatory Assistance (I & III) to update Samoa's National Tentative List and Prepare Nomination of Properties Suitable for Inscription on the World Heritage List.	16 January 2009	30 000	The panel recommended to refer back to the State Party for clarifications (is this request for one or two nomination files?) Moreover, the two-stage approach should appear (especially in the budget where the funding of the comparative analysis should be clearly mentioned). If the revised version is fine with the Advisory Bodies, it will be submitted to the Chairperson for approval of USD 30 000 without going back to the panel on condition that dues to the World Heritage Fund as of 31 December 2008 are settled. Dues settled on February 2009, but no revised request received so far.
LAC	<b>Venezuela:</b> International Assistance for the development of Ciudad Bolívar en la Angostura del Orinoco nomination file as World Heritage, with special attention to the Management Plan.	16 January 2009	25 000	The panel recommended to refer back to the State Party for revision of the budget (the funding of the comparative analysis should be clearly mentioned) and clarifications on the assessment of the natural values, the methodology and community involvement. If the revised version is fine with the Advisory Bodies, it will be submitted to the Chairperson for approval of USD 25 000 without going back to the panel. No revised request received so far.
LAC	<b>Saint Vincent &amp; the Grenadines:</b> Preparation of the tentative list of natural and cultural properties suitable for inclusion in the World Heritage List.	<i>Not yet held</i>	19 978	Request received on 22 April 2009; sent to the Advisory Bodies for evaluation on 23 April 2009.

Region	Country / Title of request	Date of panel meeting	Amount requested (USD)	Status
<b>CONSERVATION &amp; MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE REQUESTS</b>			<b>162 456</b>	
<b>Cultural heritage</b>			<b>52 660</b>	
AFR	<b>Malawi:</b> Conservation and Preservation of Chongoni Rock Art	31 January 2008	22 660	The panel recommended to send the request back to the State Party for submission of a revised request, based on a two-phased approach. No revised request received so far.
LAC	<b>Paraguay:</b> Feasibility study on the expansion of the current ecological belt on the World Heritage List, to protect the property.	16 January 2009	30 000	The panel recommended to refer back to the State Party for substantial revision. The revised version will be submitted to a next panel. Revised request received on 13 April 2009, sent to the Advisory Bodies for comments on 23 April 2009. ICOMOS replied on 28 April 2009 that it did not fulfil all the requirements expressed over the previous version. Pending ICCROM's comments.
<b>Natural heritage</b>			<b>59 305</b>	
AFR	<b>Ethiopia:</b> Development of Wildlife Health Care and Disease Prevention Strategy for Simien Mountain National Park (SMNP) Wildlife	31 January 2008	29 864	The panel did not recommend this request for approval in its present form and requested it be sent back to the State Party with IUCN's recommendations. The request has to be revised following the reactive monitoring mission which has been planned for May/June 2009.
LAC	<b>Argentina:</b> Update of the Management Plan of Peninsula Valdes	<i>Not yet held</i>	29 441	Request received on 30 January 2009; sent to the Advisory Bodies for evaluation on 9 February 2009. Comments received on 2 March 2009. Pending panel review.
<b>Mixed heritage</b>			<b>50 491</b>	
ARB	<b>Egypt:</b> World Heritage Training Diploma at Cairo University	31 January 2008	29 900	1. The panel of 4 June 2007 requested the State Party to reformulate the request, which was received on 19 September 2007. 2. The panel of 31 January 2008 did not recommend this request for approval by the Chairperson, but asked it to be returned to the State Party with a joint reply from the Secretariat and all three Advisory Bodies, asking the State Party to undertake a feasibility study in consultation with the three Advisory Bodies about the contents, scope and impact of this course. No reply received so far.

Region	Country / Title of request	Date of panel meeting	Amount requested (USD)	Status
APA	<b>Samoa:</b> Samoa's Heritage Project: Conservation and Management Assistance (VIII) at the National Level. Assistance for Education, Information & Awareness Raising of the Promotion of the World Heritage Convention	16 January 2009	10 000	The panel recommended referring back to the State Party for substantial revision. The revised version should focus on school curricula and will be submitted to a next panel. No revised request received so far.
APA	<b>Sri Lanka:</b> Translation and publication of the "World Heritage in Young Hands - an Educational Kit for Teachers" into Sinhala, Tamil and English	<i>Not yet held</i>	10 591	Received on 9 February 2009; sent to the Advisory Bodies for evaluation on 10 March 2009. ICOMOS' comments received on 27 April 2009. ICCROM and IUCN comments still pending.
<b>EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE REQUESTS</b>			<b>281 868</b>	
<b>Cultural heritage</b>			<b>281 868</b>	
APA	<b>Afghanistan:</b> Emergency river defense project for the safeguarding of the Minaret of Jam	n.a.	74 828	During the Rome meeting for the preservation of the sites of Herat and Jam (9-10 June 2008), the participants recommended that measurements of the inclination of the Jam Minaret be undertaken to assess the emergency at the site. To date, for security reasons no UNESCO mission has yet been able to go to Jam to take the necessary topographic measurements. The request is therefore pending.
APA	<b>Iran:</b> International Expert Meeting to elaborate an Emergency Conservation Action Plan for the Bisotun Inscriptions	12 September 2008	35 000	Following the Advisory Bodies' comments, a revised request should be prepared by the State Party under Conservation & Management Assistance following the mission of an international expert on November 2008. No revised request received so far.
LAC	<b>Cuba:</b> Implementing Emergency Assistance for The recovery of museums in World Heritage Sites, affected by Tropical Storm "Noel" in Eastern Cuba (Oriente).	n.a.	47 040	Following the Advisory Bodies' comments, the State Party has now to prepare a request for a lower amount (USD 30 000) under Conservation & Management assistance. No revised request received so far.
APA	<b>Pakistan:</b> Scientific Study, Documentation and Conservation of the Tomb of Jam Nizamuddin at Makli Hill, Thatta	n.a.	50 000	The State Party reformulated the request once the Advisory Bodies' comments were received. A revised request, under the same category but for a lower amount (USD 29 200), was

Region	Country / Title of request	Date of panel meeting	Amount requested (USD)	Status
				therefore received on 12 February 2009. ICOMOS and ICCROM considered it still did not fulfil all the requirements expressed over the previous version. The request was sent back to the State Party for revision at the end of April 2009.
AFR	<b>Mozambique:</b> Structural repair and reconstruction of collapsed defensive walls and foundations of the Saint Sebastian Fortress in Island of Mozambique	n.a.	75 000	Request received on 31 January 2009. ICOMOS comments received on 6 March 2009. ICCROM has not replied to date.