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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC
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**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Thirty-third Session

**Seville, Spain
22 – 30 June 2009**

Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda: Report of the World Heritage Centre

Report from the Advisory Bodies on their 2008 activities

Report of Activities in the Framework of the World Heritage Convention 2008

A Introduction

1. On the occasion of the 31st session of the World Heritage Committee (Christchurch, 2007), an amount of USD 1,510,000 was allocated by the Committee to ICOMOS to carry out its advisory body activities to the Committee with regard to cultural heritage for 2008-2009.
2. For 2008, a contract, No 4500046052, was signed on 19 May 2008 for the following activities:
 - evaluation of nominations to the World Heritage List (work mainly carried out in 2007 for presentation to the Committee in July 2008) ;
 - carrying out of thematic studies ;
 - participation at the 32nd session of the Committee (Quebec, 2-10 July 2008) and expert meetings organized by the World Heritage Centre, and
 - implementation of advisory services (examination of requests for international assistance, preparation of working documents for the Committee, etc.).
3. The first payment for the contract was made on 7 June 2008. The two following payments foreseen for 10 July and 10 August, as well as the last payment will be made upon reception of the present report and the detailed, signed financial report.
4. At the 31st session of the World Heritage Committee (Christchurch, 2007), no sum was allocated by the Committee to ICOMOS to cover its advisory work in the framework of reports on the state of conservation of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger nor for the implementation of reactive monitoring missions (work effected from September 2007 to June 2008 for presentation to the Committee in July 2008). Nevertheless, two contracts were established to carry out this work: the first, No. 4500043055, was signed on 29 November 2007 for an amount of USD 41,380.000 and the second, No. 4500045804, was signed on 15 May 2008 for an amount of USD 83,220.000.

B Evaluation of nominations for inscription on the World Heritage List

5. For the 2008 cycle that began in March 2007 and terminated in July 2008, ICOMOS was called upon to evaluate 53 properties proposed for inscription. Of these 53 evaluations of properties:
 - 28 concerned new cultural properties,
 - 6 properties that had been referred back in the past,
 - 19 minor modifications.
6. Two of the properties were transnational nominations and three were requests for extension of properties already inscribed. The requests for inscription came from 41 States Parties to the World Heritage Convention.

7. Furthermore, ICOMOS examined and revised 30 Statements of Outstanding Universal Value.
8. Expert missions were organized between July-October 2007 for 28 properties that were sent to ICOMOS at the beginning of the year. In total, and rigorously following the principles and procedures laid down in the *Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*, in particular Section III.E and Annex 6 :
 - 29 experts coming from 20 countries were involved in evaluation missions (the list of missions is annexed to the financial statement);
 - 8 ICOMOS International Scientific Committees were consulted;
 - 25 National Committees were consulted,as well as consultation with individual experts to give their views on the Outstanding Universal Value of all the properties concerned, their authenticity and integrity, their protection and management.
9. Written assessments were prepared and examined by the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel at a three-day meeting from 30 November to 2 December 2007. Additional documentation requested from the States Parties before 31 January 2008 and received by 28 February 2008, was examined at the meeting of the working group of the ICOMOS World Heritage Panel on 10 and 11 March 2008. The texts of the evaluations, approved by the Panel and accompanied by recommendations, were printed and made available (in English and French) to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre for their diffusion according to the timetable for the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee (Quebec, 2008). An ICOMOS Delegation participated at the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee (2-10 July 2008) and the ICOMOS evaluations were presented to the Committee using visual support (Powerpoint).
10. In 2008, ICOMOS launched the evaluation procedure and organized evaluation missions to the properties to be examined by the Committee in June 2009. This work shall be covered by a contract with the World Heritage Centre to be signed as soon as possible and shall therefore be presented in the 2009 Activity Report.

C Reports on the state of conservation of World Heritage properties

11. The World Heritage Centre consults the Advisory Body on a regular basis throughout the year on the problems or threats that confront the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List or on the Tentative Lists of States Parties. Additional research has been carried out, notably through the ICOMOS networks, documents have been studied and reports written and transmitted to the Centre that ensures the final preparation of the working document to be submitted to the Committee in July 2008.
12. For its part, ICOMOS immediately transmits to the World Heritage Centre all information received through its networks concerning the state of conservation of World Heritage properties and/or the threats that might weigh on these properties, so that the World Heritage Centre may complete its dossiers, obtain information from the States Parties concerned and, if necessary, launch a reactive monitoring procedure.
13. In 2008, ICOMOS was requested to establish state of conservation reports on 63 properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger to be examined by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session (Quebec, 2008). The Advisory Body also revised draft reports prepared by the Centre, and participated in a week of work on these reports in April 2008. In several cases (24), ICOMOS sent

expert missions to the properties (several were joint missions with UNESCO). Moreover, the Advisory Body participated in five advisory missions funded by the States Parties concerned. The activities linked to the monitoring of the state of conservation of World Heritage properties were part of a separate contract.

D Evaluation of requests for international assistance

14. In total, from January to September 2008, 18 requests for international assistance (technical, preparatory, emergency, training) were submitted to ICOMOS for evaluation and comment.
15. Furthermore, the Advisory Body participated in meetings organized by the World Heritage Centre to examine these international assistance requests with the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee.

E Other activities linked to the implementation of the Convention

a) Preparation of documents and thematic studies

16. The thematic study on *Cultural Landscapes of the Pacific Islands* was completed and presented to the World Heritage Committee in July 2008. This work was carried out in the framework of a separate contract with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.
17. The updating and indepth investigation for the thematic study on the *Potential Fossil Hominid Sites for inscription on the World Heritage List* is almost complete and should be submitted at end 2008-beginning 2009.
18. The thematic study of *Rock Art: Central Asia* should be made available to the World Heritage Centre in Seville 2009. It provides information on the characteristics of rock art in the region, significant sites, documentation and research available in this field, conservation conditions and the protection of sites and the threats being faced. It is the third of a series of regional rock art thematic studies.
19. The Advisory Body has carried out preliminary work in the preparation of the *Resource manual for preparation of nominations of cultural properties* that will be submitted at the beginning of 2009 in accordance with the revised timetable established by the World Heritage Centre.
20. The *Notes for Standards for the inscription of cultural properties on the World Heritage List* (May 2008) was presented to the World Heritage Committee in Quebec in the two working languages under the Point: *Discussion on Outstanding Universal Value* (WHC-08-32.COM-9). ICOMOS studies the decisions of the sessions of the World Heritage Committee relating to the nominations and proceeds with an analysis of the application of each of the criteria. The study of the application of criteria comprises different stages of the procedure, State Party nominations, evaluations by the Advisory Body and the decisions of the World Heritage Committee.
21. This year, ICOMOS prepared written contributions for the World Heritage Expert Workshop: Science and Technology (21-23 January 2008, London, United Kingdom) and the International Expert Meeting on the World Heritage and Buffer Zones (11-14 March 2008, Davos, Switzerland). The Advisory Body also began a reflection on Heritage and Astronomy (WHC.08-32.COM-Inf.5D) in view of the launching of a thematic study. It also assisted the Centre in the preparation of working documents for the 32nd session of the

Committee and notably the Point of Information on the preparation of serial transnational nominations (WHC.08-32COM-10B).

22. The World Heritage Centre launched a *Tourism Programme* with ICOMOS as a partner. The Advisory Body has always supported the development of close relations between the management and conservation authorities of the sites and the tourism industry. Also, the partnership with the World Heritage Centre takes the form of shared knowledge in the preparation of orientation texts on the theme and practical experience in the field.
23. The reflection launched by the World Heritage Centre on the theme *Historic Urban Landscapes* continued throughout this year. ICOMOS, requested by the Centre to take part in the reference group for this initiative, participated in the work of the regional conferences of Eastern and Central European countries and the Americas. To conclude this first phase, the point of view of the Advisory Body regarding this initiative is contained in a report submitted to the World Heritage Centre.
24. Reflection on several *themes relating to the state of conservation of natural and cultural properties* is continuing in the working documents for the World Heritage Committee but also with the presentation *ICOMOS overview of state of conservation of cultural properties* (Quebec, 2008).
25. The Advisory Body largely contributed towards the orientation session for the new members of the World Heritage Committee organized on 1 July 2008 with several presentations (Evaluation procedure, use of criteria, key issues for the evaluation of nominations, management of cultural properties and integrity of cultural properties).
26. On the occasion of the ICOMOS General Assembly (29 September-4 October 2008), a workshop on the theme 'ICOMOS and World Heritage' was planned (1 October 2008) with the objective of providing general information on the Convention and specific subjects that the World Heritage Committee had raised and would raise in the future.

b) Thematic meetings

27. In addition to the meetings already mentioned, ICOMOS was represented at several meetings relating to the development of the Global Strategy and, more generally, to other aspects of the World Heritage Convention. These concerned the following venues :

| Meetings | Dates | Venue |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Budapest Urban Observatory. Historic Urban Landscape: definition, management, examples | 14 January 2008 | Budapest, Hungary |
| 6 th Expert Working Group on the Preservation of the Bamiyan Site | 19 – 23 January 2008 | Tokyo, Japan |
| The Expert Workshop on Science and Technology within the Framework of the Global Strategy for a Balanced and Representative World Heritage List | 21 – 23 January 2008 | London, UK |
| Invitation to the Kingdom of Bahrain on the occasion of the opening of the visitor centre-museum of the World Heritage Site of 'Qul'at al-Bahrain – ancient harbour and capital of Dilmun' | 17 – 21 February 2008 | Bahrain |
| International Expert Meeting on the World Heritage and Buffer Zones | 11 – 14 March 2008 | Davos, Switzerland |
| Second International Congress of Mountain and Steep Slope Viticulture | 13 – 15 March 2008 | Galicia, Spain |
| World Heritage: Define and protect the 'important | 18 – 20 March | Montreal, |

| | | |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| visual perspectives' | 2008 | Canada |
| Workshop on the Preparation of Statements of Significance and Statements of Outstanding Universal Value | 26 – 27 March 2008 | ICCROM, Rome, Italy |
| Working Group on the Simplification of the Periodic Reporting Questionnaire | 31 March – 4 April 2008 | Paris, France |
| Managing World Heritage Sites | April 2008 | Edinburgh, Scotland |
| Periodic Reporting Follow-up Meeting for the Mediterranean and South-eastern Europe sub-regions | 17 – 19 April 2008 | Corfu, Greece |
| Global Climate Change and its Impact on Structures of Cultural Heritage | 3 – 5 May 2008 | Macau SAR, China |
| Seminars on Preventive Conservation and Monitoring of the Architectural Heritage | 26 May 2008 | Val de Loire, France |
| ICOMOS Europe Group Meeting 2008 | 26 – 30 May 2008 | Berne, Switzerland |
| 11 th US/ICOMOS Symposium | 28 – 31 May 2008 | Washington, United States |
| 2008 Asia-Pacific Conference | 10 June 2008 | |
| Lijiang Conference | 11 – 12 June 2008 | |
| TICCIH regional meeting | 16 – 17 September 2008 | Buenos Aires, Argentina |
| OWHC Regional Conference 2008 on 'Earth, Wind, Water, Fire' | 16 -18 September 2008 | Regensburg, Germany |
| 6th Meeting of the Council of Europe of the Workshops for the Implementation of the European Landscape Convention: 'Landscape and rural heritage' | 20 – 21 September 2008 | Sibiu, Romania |

c) Information

28. ICOMOS has a Documentation Centre, the contents of which are available on line; all documents and publications may be consulted in the afternoons from 14.00 to 17.00 and by appointment. The « World Heritage » archives are a daily work tool of our World Heritage Unit and moreover they are regularly consulted by researchers, professionals and also States Party administrations wishing to prepare nominations.
29. The Advisory Body responds on almost a daily basis to information requests from States Parties, researchers, students and the general public concerning the World Heritage Convention.

F Statutory and administrative meetings

30. ICOMOS participated in the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee in Quebec – Canada (2-10 July 2008) and the Information Meeting of the World Heritage Committee members – Paris, UNESCO (May 2008).
31. ICOMOS participated in two Advisory Body meetings (IUCN, ICCROM and ICOMOS) with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, held respectively on 29-31 January 2008, UNESCO World Heritage Centre, Paris (France) and 10-12 September 2008, ICCROM, Rome (Italy).

ICOMOS, Paris
September 2008

IUCN ACTIVITIES ON WORLD HERITAGE 2008-09

32. This brief report summarizes IUCN's main activities on World Heritage between the 32nd and 33rd Sessions of the World Heritage Committee, and briefly notes the status of this work looking forward to the new biennium.

1. 32nd Session of the World Heritage Committee

33. IUCN was represented by a strong delegation at the 32nd Session of the World Heritage Committee, held from 2 July to 10 July 2008 in Quebec City, Canada. The delegation included, for the first time, the Director General of IUCN, as well as IUCN staff and experts from IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas. IUCN's activity at the meeting focused on:

- (a) The presentation of IUCN's evaluations of new nominations of natural and mixed properties, including extensions and boundary modifications
- (b) The presentation of State of Conservation reports and recommendations, including reports on monitoring missions, and responding to questions from the Committee or providing technical advice to the Committee and the States Parties concerned;
- (c) Contributing to discussions on policy, administrative and procedural matters, including on training and capacity building, the plan of work for the second year of the 2008-2009 biennium; and the reinforced monitoring mechanism; and
- (d) A side event on the Management Effectiveness Toolkit was conducted to provide information and methods to improve management effectiveness in World Heritage Sites.

34. IUCN was very active outside the formal Committee sessions to meet with States Parties seeking technical advice on the management and conservation of their properties, or in the preparation of upcoming evaluation or monitoring missions requested by the Committee. IUCN also actively sought to inform the wider public of World Heritage issues and respond to questions, through press releases, web stories and interviews with the media. The IUCN delegation worked closely with the staff of the World Heritage Centre and other Advisory Bodies throughout to ensure the successful and smooth-running of the meeting.

2. Evaluation of New Nominations

35. The evaluation of new nominations of natural and mixed properties to the World Heritage List forms the principal funded activity within IUCN's advisory services contract, and due to the growing size of nominations files, and trends such as the increasing trend for serial nominations, this work has become increasingly complex, costly and time consuming. IUCN presented the results of its evaluations at the 32nd Session of the Committee, and the majority of IUCN's recommendations were accepted by the Committee. IUCN has also carried out the required evaluations in preparation for the 33rd Session of the Committee. Further information on IUCN's work on evaluations is provided in the introduction to IUCN's report WHC.09/33.COM/INF.8B2

36. IUCN also participated with ICOMOS in the completeness checking of new nominations for the 34th Session of the Committee held at the World Heritage Centre in February 2009. All of the nominations that had been submitted were reviewed, and agreed positions regarding completeness of new nominations were reached with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS.

3. Reactive and Reinforced Monitoring

37. IUCN works closely with the Centre and where relevant the other Advisory Bodies, ICOMOS and ICCROM in monitoring World Heritage properties. IUCN continues to draw on the expertise of its regional and country offices, members of its World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and Species Survival Commission, and various other sources including experts in academia and NGOs to support this work. IUCN's activities have focused on: (a) researching, preparing and presenting the annual state of conservation report to the World Heritage Committee for natural and mixed World Heritage Sites and some cultural landscapes; (b) preparing, implementing and reporting on monitoring missions; (c) contributing to the review of the periodic reporting process; (d) advising on a range of policy issues including climate change; and (e) generally in supporting the role of the World Heritage Convention in ensuring the conservation of natural and mixed heritage. IUCN's technical advice to the World Heritage Committee, drawing on expertise in its offices and networks, was broadly commended by the Committee at its 32nd session. While recognising the limited resources available for World Heritage activities, IUCN is constantly seeking to ensure the highest quality of technical advice to ensure the credibility of the World Heritage Convention is maintained and so World Heritage properties are better managed and can serve as flagships for conservation.
38. Throughout the year, IUCN has sought to ensure a close working relationship with staff at the World Heritage Centre to ensure effective communication and efficient response to any requests and issues. There is very good collaboration and recognition of the considerable value in joining forces on this work. It is essential that both partners recognize each other's specific expertise and 'added-value', so that the process can be most result- and cost-effective, considering current resources. IUCN notes the increasingly important role of monitoring activities to the credibility of the World Heritage Convention. Ways of improving the process were discussed between IUCN and the World Heritage Centre during the first Nature Retreat held in Paris in January 2008. IUCN suggests that there should be a follow up discussion to review progress in implementing the suggestions made at this retreat after the 33rd meeting of the Committee.
39. IUCN receives and actively seeks information on threats to and activities in World Heritage properties. Information is verified through IUCN's offices and networks, and shared with the World Heritage Centre. IUCN regional and country offices, members of IUCN expert commissions (in particular the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and the Species Survival Commission), IUCN members, various sources from academia and NGOs, and protected area researchers and managers around the world all contribute extensively to this continuous monitoring. Internet-based news services and information sources are contributing increasingly to the more traditional information from reviews of newsletters, newspapers, journals and other publications. This information is also verified through IUCN's networks of experts to ensure an objective technically sound approach is taken in response to reported threats and activities. All information received by IUCN is archived within its World Heritage filing system, which is carefully maintained.
40. IUCN prepared and agreed State of Conservation reports and draft recommendations for 59 natural and mixed World Heritage Sites in collaboration with the Centre for the 32nd Session of the World Heritage Committee in Quebec City, Canada. IUCN took the lead in drafting the majority of these reports, and made significant contributions to others that were originated by the Centre. Two reports were prepared as completed drafts but not presented to the Committee. IUCN also contributed to state of conservation reports and draft decisions for 4 cultural landscapes, where the reports were prepared by ICOMOS and the Centre. This is amongst the highest annual workloads noted in terms of number

of SOC report under the IUCN monitoring contract for World Heritage and the requirements greatly exceeded the staff time available to carry out this work. Alongside this, IUCN also undertook nine joint missions with UNESCO in relation to requests of the World Heritage Committee (seven in relation to reactive monitoring and two in relation to reinforced monitoring), whilst a tenth requested mission will take place after the 33rd Session.

41. Demands on voluntary networks remain high, notably in relation to servicing the requests for missions. While missions are usually 5-10 days in length 4 weeks of work are required for planning and report writing. In particular, monitoring missions are increasingly complex and sensitive, and significant input from senior staff or top international experts is required in the preparation of mission and state of conservation reports and subsequent reporting to the World Heritage Committee.
42. In addition to the exceptional workload requested by the Committee, further work in relation to monitoring, such as climate change, disaster risk reduction and the new reinforced monitoring mechanism, have not been fully resourced by this contract and has put increasing pressure on limited staff. This has required additional staff time from the Programme on Protected Areas and other IUCN Programmes to be subsidized by IUCN. Ensuring that missions and other requests from the World Heritage Committee can be carried out with the limited resources remains a challenge, although IUCN is grateful that the Committee at its 32nd session approved a modest increase in IUCN's monitoring budget which partially incorporated increased costs from reinforced monitoring and partial compensation for the loss in value of the contract due to exchange rate fluctuations.
43. Recommendations within the state of conservation reports were generally accepted by the Committee and IUCN contributed to Committee discussions for those where amendments were considered.

4. Periodic Reporting

44. In 2008-09, IUCN was actively involved in the ongoing review of the periodic reporting process. IUCN attended the inauguration meeting for the Periodic Reporting exercise for the Arab States region, held in December 2008 in the Kingdom of Bahrain, and is providing a mentor to this exercise based at the IUCN regional office in Amman, Jordan. IUCN also provided expertise at a meeting to support the preparation of retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value held at Dar es Salaam, held in March 2008.

5. International Assistance Requests

45. Meetings to review International Assistance Requests were held in conjunction with each of these meetings and IUCN provided technical reviews within agreed deadlines on all applications during the period of the contract. IUCN also contributed constructive suggestions to the establishment and improvement of a new online system for the submission and review of International Assistance Requests. IUCN consulted with its regional and country offices and with its expert commissions to ensure that local and global perspectives were considered in providing the best advice possible.

6. Other Meetings relevant to World Heritage

46. IUCN and WCPA experts participated in the following meetings.

| Date | Location | Meeting |
|----------------|---------------------|---|
| May 2008 | Ouagadougou | World Heritage Nominations in West Africa |
| May 2008 | Gland | Training and Capacity Building for World Heritage |
| July 2008 | Beijing | Advisory Committee for World Heritage Research and Training Institute – Asia Pacific |
| August 2008 | Oslo | International Geological Congress, IUGS |
| September 2008 | Québec City | ICOMOS General Congress |
| October 2008 | Barcelona | IUCN World Conservation Congress (4 workshops related to the World Heritage Convention) |
| October 2008 | Blätten-bei-Natters | Meeting on World Heritage and Tourism |
| October 2008 | Rio de Janeiro | Meeting on Tentative List for Brazil |
| October 2008 | Cairns | Pacific Islands World Heritage Workshop |
| November 2008 | Paris | Preparation meeting for the workshop on the 'Future of the World Heritage Convention' |
| November 2008 | Lesotho | Workshop on Nominations for South and East Africa |
| November 2008 | Paris | Meeting on the Mining and World Heritage |
| November 2008 | Paris | Meeting on Prehistory |
| November 2008 | Vilm | Meeting on Serial World Heritage properties |
| December 2008 | Bahrain | Periodic Reporting in the Arab States |
| December 2008 | Bahrain | Advisory Meeting to the proposed World Heritage Training Centre for the Arab States |
| January 2009 | Beijing | China Tentative List Workshop |
| February 2009 | Bahrain | Meeting on World Heritage and Marine Protected Areas |
| February 2009 | Paris | Informal Working Group on the Budget |
| February 2009 | Paris | Workshop on the future of the World Heritage Convention |

47. IUCN also contributed to a large number of meetings relevant to World Heritage in 2008, from statutory meetings to meetings of partners working in World Heritage properties. There is a constant demand for IUCN to participate in meetings and unfortunately it is not able to be present in all cases. A further highlight for the year was the IUCN World Conservation Congress, which is held every four years. IUCN was particularly grateful for the collaborative work with the World Heritage Centre to co-organize a lively programme of World Heritage related activities during the Congress, including a centrepiece workshop on the future of the World Heritage Convention.

7. Statements of Outstanding Universal Value

48. In 2008-09, IUCN has contributed to the development of practice in the preparation of Statements of Outstanding Universal Value (SoOUV) through both discussion with the Advisory Bodies and World Heritage Centre to develop an agreed format, and through the preparation of an advisory note on the preparation of retrospective SoOUV prepared in February 2009. IUCN has also begun the process of training its network of evaluators in the preparation of these statements. IUCN has also agreed a standard formula and costing for the desk review of Statements of Outstanding Universal Value, which will enable the revision of these statements in as efficient a way as possible, in view of the large amount of such work that will be required in the coming years.

8. Global Strategy and Thematic Studies

49. IUCN has further developed its work on the Global Strategy. Outstanding Universal Value: Standards for Natural World Heritage, a compendium requested by the Committee on the application of the concept of Outstanding Universal Value, was presented to the 32nd Session of the World Heritage Committee in Québec City, 2008. At the same meeting, IUCN presented its thematic study on World Heritage Caves and Karst, funded within this contract was published in June 2008 and a study on World Heritage and Protected Areas, prepared with IUCN funding at the same meeting. IUCN also published two resource manuals: Natural World Heritage Nominations and Management Planning for Natural World Heritage Properties (Interim version) in July and August 2008 respectively. These publications received funding from IUCN's contract with UNESCO on World Heritage training, and in both cases IUCN augmented the budgets in the contracts with its own resources. During the period of the contract IUCN has also continued its work in the development of two further thematic studies on World Heritage Volcanoes, and on World Heritage Deserts. It is hoped that the former will be finalised and presented to the 33rd Session of the Committee in Sevilla in June 2009, and the latter by the end of 2009. IUCN has also worked during the period of the contract on two further publications. A second compendium, World Heritage in Danger, covering the use of List of World Heritage in Danger, has been prepared with funding from UNESCO and significant additional support from IUCN, and with inputs from the World Heritage Centre and past Chairpersons of the World Heritage Committee. A report on Serial Natural World Heritage Sites was also commissioned and produced jointly with BfN, the German Nature Conservation Agency. These two publications will also be presented to the 33rd Session of the World Heritage Committee. All of these nine titles have been published in a series of IUCN World Heritage Studies, to a common format and design, and have been also included as pdf documents on the IUCN WCPA website. IUCN was also represented in the process of preparation of a publication on management guidelines for World Heritage Cultural Landscapes, led by the World Heritage Centre.

9. Training and Capacity Building

50. In addition to the input to meetings and the preparation of publications and guidance noted above, IUCN, through the work of its WCPA Vice Chair for World Heritage compiled a fundraising proposal for this activity and presented this to the World Heritage Centre for feedback in December 2008, which will be circulated separately at the 33rd Session. IUCN considers that a step change in investment in training and capacity building is required to meet the needs of the States Parties to the Convention, and notes that this is one of the most significantly under funded elements of the programme of the World Heritage Committee.

10. Enhancing IUCN's work on World Heritage

51. In 2008-09, IUCN also continued with the implementation of a number of the 26 recommendations from the external review of its evaluation process, undertaken by Dr. Christina Cameron in 2005. Progress was made with the expansion of the World Heritage Panel to include representatives from the Asia-Pacific and Africa regions, with contributions from senior experts who also brought experience in species conservation, protected areas and the earth science. IUCN also continued to contribute its own funding to a senior level position in IUCN's Programme on Protected Areas in Gland focused on World Heritage, focused in the implementation of the recommendations of the Cameron Review, development of new areas of support for the World Heritage Convention within the IUCN programme, commissions and memberships and development of projects and partnerships. As for other institutions and NGOs the international financial crisis has affected IUCN as a result of which, and due to internal budget decisions, IUCN abolished a number of positions

in the global secretariat including the position of Head of the Programme on Protected Areas. This decision does not imply a reduction in the level of priority of IUCN's work on World Heritage. On the contrary the level of financial support to World Heritage by IUCN remains at much higher levels than at any stage in the past and corporate leadership will continue to be provided to this work, including through the Head of the IUCN Biodiversity Conservation Group and the IUCN Special Advisor on World Heritage. However IUCN notes that the provision of adequate funding from UNESCO for the work demanded by the Committee is a key issue in the current challenging financial climate.

52. IUCN notes that a key issue is the degree to which the costs of IUCN's work are covered under the contracted work under the World Heritage Fund, where financial matters have become increasingly challenging due to a number of issues including the progressive decline in the value of the dollar in relation to the Swiss franc, and that the rates in these contracts have not kept up with the true costs of the staff time that is required to deliver it. These will be critical issues in relation to the consideration of the budget for this and other contracts in the 2010-2011 biennium.

53. IUCN continued, through the focal role of the WCPA Vice-Chair for World Heritage to engage and develop its expert networks in support of a range of World Heritage activities, providing unquantified but very significant direct support to the implementation of the work of the Convention. Key areas of contribution have included the support for evaluation and nomination processes, the contribution of IUCN's expert network on protected area management effectiveness, the contribution of the WCPA Tourism Task Force to discussions on IUCN's tourism programme and the leadership of WCPA-Marine in advancing a programme of work to support the identification and effective management of marine World Heritage Sites.

54. IUCN's regional offices have also made a significant contribution to IUCN's work on World Heritage during the year:

| Office | Activities |
|---------------------------|---|
| Europe | Fundraising to support marine activities, support and advice on SOC files in Russia and elsewhere |
| Mediterranean Office | Support on State of Conservation reports and agreed support to Periodic report in Arab States Region |
| West Asia and Middle East | World Heritage focal point in place. Support for Periodic Reporting and mentoring of completion of relevant questionnaires in Arab States Region. Development of draft proposals on training and capacity building. Support to States Parties on Tentative Listing. |
| West and Central Africa | Protected Areas focal point in place. Leadership of programme of management effectiveness on World Heritage Sites and protected areas in West Africa. Support for training and capacity building, state of conservation reporting, mission logistics. Support to States Parties on Tentative List prioritisation. |
| East and Southern Africa | Support on mission logistics and input and advice on state of conservation reports. |
| Asia | Input to State of Conservation reports and issues related to mining and World Heritage. |
| Pacific | Support on mission logistics, input to state of conservation reports and development of proposals on training and capacity building. |

| Office | Activities |
|---------------|---|
| Meso America | Support and advice for on state of conservation and International Assistance requests, logistical support for missions. Developing Caribbean programme including contribution on state of conservation reports and |
| South America | World Heritage focal point in place. Review of International Assistance Requests, support for Enhancing Our Heritage. Input to State of Conservation reporting. Support to States Parties on Tentative Listing, especially in Brazil. |

55. In relation to nominations, IUCN was pleased to note significant results from its collaboration agreement with IUGS which resulted in an increased number and increased depth in the reviews of geological nominations. IUCN also concluded a collaboration agreement with the Protected Landscapes Task Force of WCPA to enhance IUCN's input to the work on cultural landscapes. IUCN is also pleased to note a significant increase in the activities of its regional offices in relation to World Heritage, and the growing interest in this work. These experiences indicate the value in IUCN extending its networks and partnerships to enhance the effectiveness of its World Heritage work.

56. IUCN is pleased to have been able to greatly extend and update the available literature in support of World Heritage since the 32nd Session of the Committee, mostly through IUCN's own resources and staff time. A challenge with all of these publication projects is that, with the exception of the two compendia, which were translated into French by UNESCO, all are produced only in English, thus a key priority is to secure funding to enable the translation of these studies.

57. In summary, despite continuing budget challenges, IUCN has delivered on its expected commitments for work that is wholly and partly financed through the World Heritage Fund, and has also further increased its own contribution on World Heritage with additional and new resources to deliver the requirements that are not able to be funded through the sources available to the World Heritage Committee. IUCN regards its work on the World Heritage Convention as being of the highest importance, and also has plans to further increase its work on World Heritage, subject to resources.

58. IUCN set out a series of key strategic recommendations in its paper on the Future of the World Heritage Convention, prepared for the workshop held on this subject held at UNESCO in February 2009. This paper sets out a series of actions that IUCN considers would enhance the operation of the Convention, and has been presented to the Committee separately. The paper identified four key challenges for the future of the Convention

- Retain the quality of the brand
- Ensure Conservation and Effective Management
- Strengthen the role of World Heritage Sites as flagships for conservation
- Dealing with workload and finding the money.

59. IUCN is well placed to help meet these challenges, and is seeking resources and developing a number of proposals to support increased activities on World Heritage, most notably in providing direct support to the effective management of World Heritage properties in Africa, increased support for identification of properties suitable for nomination, and for training and capacity building activities more generally. Realizing these plans will also involve the development of the partnerships IUCN has with the States Parties to the Convention, the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS, ICCROM and others. IUCN would

welcome the support of interested States Parties and foundations to further enhance its work in support of the World Heritage Convention.

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