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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF  
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Thirty-fourth session

Brasilia, Brazil  
25 July – 3 August 2010

**Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda: Reports of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies**

**5F: Report on the World Heritage Thematic Programmes**

## SUMMARY

This document briefly presents a background and report on their respective activities of the following World Heritage Thematic Programmes and Initiative:

- World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Programme, adopted in 2001
- World Heritage Earthen Architecture Programme, adopted in 2001
- World Heritage Cities Programme, adopted in 2001
- The World Heritage Forests Programme, adopted in 2001
- Small Island Developing States Programme, adopted in 2005
- World Heritage Marine Programme, adopted in 2005
- World Heritage Thematic Programme on Prehistory, adopted in 2008
- Astronomy and World Heritage Initiative, adopted in 2005

**Draft Decision: 34 COM 5F**, see Point IX

See also: Documents *WHC-10/34.COM/INF5F.1* and *WHC-10/34.COM/INF5F.2*

## I. World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Programme

1. The World Heritage Tourism Programme was established at the 25th World Heritage Committee session (Helsinki, 2001) (cf.par. XVII.4-XVII.12, Document *WHC-01/CONF.208/24*). The Committee reported tourism is a growing threat which if suitably managed could offer socio-economic opportunities. It decided to implement regional, sub-regional and site-specific activities which could develop concrete lessons to be used to improve working methodologies.

2. The World Heritage Tourism Programme activities include a tourism/public-use planning process, training community members in tourism activities to receive benefits, aiding community product marketing, raising World Heritage public awareness, using tourism-generated funds for site financing, and sharing the lessons learned with other sites.

3. A 2006 strategy document Document *WHC-06/30.COM/12* was submitted to the Committee (Vilnius, 2006). It lists the vision, mission, objectives, outputs, outcomes and performance indicators of this Programme. The mission, “to aid the Committee and site management using tourism as a positive force to retain World Heritage site values and help mitigate site threats.” The four activity areas are:

- Aiding World Heritage Centre Regional Desk Units;
- Increasing World Heritage site management capacity to plan and manage tourism;
- Promoting alternative livelihoods for local communities, and
- Engaging the tourism industry to affect increased conservation benefits.

4. The Programme approach uses regional and sub-regional demonstration sites for best practice and policy development; sites serve as regional anchors for economic development and learning platforms for management capacity-building.

5. An Initiative (World Heritage Sustainable Tourism Initiative launched by the Programme in 2007 brought together specialists to craft overarching principles, share working methods and develop a common set of training materials. The initiative had the approval by the World Heritage Centre Directorate and the Advisory Bodies; partners included the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the UN Foundation (UNF), the World Bank, and the Nordic World Heritage Fund. In 2008 and 2009, three meetings sponsored by France, Switzerland, India were held; related reports outline joint working approaches for visitor-management, site-financing and community and tourism industry relations. A draft set of overarching principles was produced (cf. *WHC-09/33.COM/5A, Annex III*).

6. Three World Heritage Centre staff including the Director participated in the Workshop, *Advancing Sustainable Tourism at Natural and Cultural Heritage Sites*, at the Mogao Caves, China, September 2009. The Committee (Seville, 2009) in its Decision 33.COM 5A paragraph19, a and b requested the Workshop to produce best practice policy guidance and suggested changes for the *Operational Guidelines*. The principles derived through the two-year process of the above-mentioned Initiative were re-examined and endorsed. The World Heritage Tourism Programme provided a working document of suggested changes to the *Operational Guidelines*. After working with the Mogao Workshop organizers and the Advisory Bodies, minimal changes to Annex 5 of the *Operational Guidelines*, were recommended (cf. Document *WHC-10/34.COM/13*).

7. Key activities undertaken between 2006 to date are listed below. The outcomes, benchmarks and performance indicators stressed in Document *WHC-06/30.COM/12* are used; additional activities are listed where deemed appropriate.

### A. Aiding World Heritage Centre Regional Desk Units

Desired Outcome: A World Heritage Tourism Programme fully integrated into the work of the Centre, the Committee and its Advisory Bodies.

Benchmarks for implementation established in 2006:

- 5 World Heritage sustainable tourism training workshops implemented and project designs carried out with the participation of World Heritage Regional Programme officers;
- 2 initiatives developed jointly with the World Heritage Marine Programme;
- 2 public-use plans submitted by States Parties with the nomination dossiers.

Performance Indicators	Results: July 2006-May 2010
1. Number of World Heritage sustainable tourism training workshops implemented and project designs with WH Regional Programme specialists;	<b>Nine</b> training workshops; (Viet Nam, China, Montenegro, FYR of Macedonia, Mexico, Belize, El Salvador, Panama, Costa Rica) <b>Three</b> projects with World Heritage Regional Units and Field Offices, (SE Europe, Central American WH Route, Quang Nam, Vietnam) <b>Four</b> project design efforts with Field Offices, (Thailand, Costa Rica, Italy and Vietnam)
2. Number of initiatives developed with other World Heritage Thematic Programmes;	<b>Two</b> marine sites, one public-use planner advised tourism planning in Coiba National Park, Panama, and one public-use training for Coastal Zone Management Institute, Belize
3. Number of public-use plans submitted by States Parties with the nomination dossiers.	No public-use plans submitted with the nomination dossiers.
• Additional activities to support the work of the Centre, the Committee and the Advisory Bodies.	<b>One</b> initiative created with UNWTO & the Advisory Bodies for consistent tourism policies. Conference with UNWTO on Sustainable Tourism Management at Heritage Sites, Mount Huangshan, China. <b>Ongoing participation</b> in the Marrakech Task Force on Sustainable Tourism Development with UNEP and UNWTO

### B. Increasing World Heritage site capacity to plan and manage tourism

Desired Outcome: Increased capacity at World Heritage sites to spread planning and management skills.

Benchmarks for implementation established in 2006:

- 5 tourism/public-use plans generated at WH sites;
- 5 tourism/public-use plans implemented;
- 10 site staff trained in tourism/public-use planning;
- 1 additional language of the World Heritage Papers Series #1 ([Managing Tourism at World Heritage Sites: a Practical Manual for World Heritage Site Managers](#)) ;
- A complete set of materials on planning and interpretation;

- 3 workshops and 2 publications on sustainable tourism and site-financing policy/mechanisms.

Performance Indicators	Results: July 2006- May 2010
1. Number of tourism public-use plans generated at World Heritage sites in each of the five regions;	<b>Two</b> Sian Ka'an, Mexico and Blue Hole, Belize Barrier Reef. <b>Four</b> ongoing, Hoi An & My Son, Viet Nam; Durmitor, Montenegro and Ohrid, FYR of Macedonia. Goal, a unified planning approach for the South East European (SEE) and Vietnamese sites
Number of tourism/public-use plans implemented;	<b>Two</b> being implemented at Belize and Sian Ka'an (Mexico) sites. Financing for Durmitor found.
Number of site staff trained in public-use planning;	<b>Six</b> Vietnamese, <b>three</b> Belizeans ( <b>two</b> from Coastal Zone Management Institute), two Mexicans from Sian Kaan, <b>two</b> Montenegrins and <b>two</b> FYR Macedonians, fifteen in total;
Number of languages of the World Heritage Papers Series n°1 Manual	Manual available in <b>4 languages:</b> Spanish, English, Chinese, and Vietnamese. <u>Another translation into Portuguese is being prepared.</u>
Number of World Heritage sustainable tourism materials produced for site managers;	<b>Public-use planning manual in English and Spanish, updated in English</b> , to be updated in Spanish, translated into Vietnamese and to be translated into Serbian.
Number of workshops and publications on sustainable tourism, site-financing and policy mechanisms.	<b>One</b> workshop, Iguazu Argentina, with site-financing manual. <b>Two</b> site-financing initiatives (Danube Delta and Durmitor); <b>Five</b> trained using The Nature Conservancy's e-learning site-financing tool.

### C. Promoting alternative livelihoods for local communities

Desired Outcome: Model projects using tourism to develop alternative livelihoods aiding the conservation of World Heritage sites.

Benchmarks for implementation established in 2006:

- 5 World Heritage site local community initiatives

Performance Indicators	Results: July 2006- May 2010
Number of pilot project in communities using tourism to promote alternative livelihoods;	<b>One</b> visitor research centre completed in Hoi An, Vietnam. Three community development projects : Three Parallel Rivers, China; Belize Barrier Reef, Belize and Sian Ka'an, Mexico.

### D. Engaging the tourism industry to affect increased conservation benefits.

Desired outcome:

Key tourism industry leaders engaged in solving site issues, providing funds or in-kind services and contributing funds to the World Heritage Centre for the World Heritage Tourism Programme.

Benchmarks for implementation established in 2006:

- 4 interventions by tourism industry to aid site conservation
- 3 times attending industry fairs
- the World Heritage Centre member of 5 tourism related associations;

<b>Performance Indicators</b>	<b>Results: July 2006- May 2010</b>
Number of interventions by tour operators and tour operator associations to aid in solving site problems	<b>Ongoing</b> participation in the UNWTO, UNEP, UNESCO Tour Operators Initiative, (TOI) advised WWF-TOI Meso-American Reef project on the Riviera Maya. Attended <b>three</b> TOI meetings along with UNWTO, UNEP.
Number of tourism industry fairs attended .	<b>Attended:</b> London Travel Mart and Matka Nordic Travel Fair, Helsinki, Finland.
Number of initiatives to aid site management and local communities either through direct financing or in-kind services	Participation in Friends of World Heritage with UNFfunds over 300 K USD distributed and earmarked to date. Ongoing participation in the World Heritage Tourism Alliance
Number of promotional outlets accessed to report on the activities.	Work with REWE-Touristik to produce a brochure sensitizing visitors on World Heritage and low-impact ways to visit Yucatan, Mexico and Sri Lankan WH sites;

8. An evaluation of the World Heritage Tourism programme, requested by the Director of the World Heritage Centre, is being carried out by an external independent evaluation team. The evaluation is being funded by the UN Foundation and will provide insights into future directions for the Tourism programme. If completed in time, the results will be made available to the World Heritage Committee session (Brasilia, 2010).

## **II. World Heritage Earthen Architecture Programme (WHEAP)**

9. The ten-year World Heritage Earthen Architecture Programme (WHEAP) (2007-2017) was adopted at the 31st session of the World Heritage Committee (Christchurch, 2007) (Decision **31 COM 21C**). Already in 2001, since over 10% of World Heritage properties are earthen architectural sites, the World Heritage Committee had approved *earthen architecture* as a *thematic programme*. In full recognition of the advantages of the natural building material in terms of economic, ecological, and cultural benefits for sustainable development, the Programme promotes revitalization of earthen architecture and conservation of its heritage. Its main objectives are to develop appropriate methods for a sustainable conservation of the different types of earthen architectural heritage included in the World Heritage List or Tentative Lists and to ensure that best practices are broadly disseminated for implementation at properties protected under the *World Heritage Convention*.

10. Firstly, progress was achieved in the inventory project of the earthen architecture sites inscribed in the World Heritage List and of those included in the States Parties' Tentative Lists, launched in July 2009 which presented interesting intermediate results. Already, these results allow for a better understanding of the actual existence of earthen architecture in the World Heritage List. Also, by means of questionnaires distributed to the site managers or responsible entities, it was possible to get a better knowledge of existent typologies, current state of conservation, threats and priority

actions. Knowing the pertinent management and conservation issues will help identify common directions for a strategy. The analysis of the updated inventory should be accomplished by June 2010. The publication of the results supported financially by a donation from the French Government through the France-UNESCO Convention should have an important impact on the image and valorisation of earthen architecture in the world.

11. Secondly, in the course of 2009, urban conservation regulations for Timbuktu (Mali) were developed to face and control development pressure. They were compiled in a conservation manual in June 2009 and submitted to the Malian authorities for approval. This activity implemented Decision **33 COM 7B.45**.

12. Thirdly, a consultation meeting on the implementation of the WHEAP in the Arab States was held at the World Heritage Centre in January 2010. Representatives of 10 States Parties of the region participated and exchanged with international experts on relevant issues of earthen architecture conservation in the region. As an outcome, a document was compiled based on the meeting, recalling the presentations, and outlining the main discussion points that should be considered when developing the Arab States regional implementation strategy. The meeting was an important occasion to establish the regional network of professionals. The meeting was supported financially by a donation of the private joint initiative *Shaikh Ebrahim Bin Mohammed Al-Kalifa Centre for Culture and Research/ ARCAPITA Bank B.S.C.* from Bahrain.

13. Fourthly, in early 2010, a 2-year project for the safeguarding of New Gourn Village (Egypt) was launched, funded by UNESCO through the Special account for the Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage of Egypt. Besides the conservation and management activities included in the project, one of the prior aims is to safeguard this village built by Architect Hassan Fathy between 1946 and 1952, as an outstanding example of earthen architecture and appropriate technology in the context of the modern architecture movement. During the launching meeting in April 2010, the Scientific and Honorary Committees were established.

14. With reference to related activities in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region, a meeting on Earthen Artisans in this Region was organized in Tlaxcala, Mexico, 24 to 26 September, 2009, in close cooperation with the Governor of the State and the UNESCO Office in Mexico, and financed by the Spanish Funds-in-Trust for World Heritage. Regional participants attended the meeting, including Masters students in vernacular earthen architecture in the Region, architects, institutional representatives, researchers and professors. Results of the meeting were published in *Artesanos de Arquitectura de Tierra en América Latina y Caribe, la técnica, la tradición oral y formas de transmisión del oficio*. The publication proposes guidelines in developing a regional strategy in the Region which underlines the knowledge and social role of the artisans. It also stresses the urgent need for a regional glossary for interventions and exchanges of good practices with special emphasis on risk preparedness, as well as a forum to merge vernacular and contemporary traditions for earthen architecture. The meeting followed on from fruitful discussions undertaken at the meeting on Earthen Built Heritage and the Social Role of the Artisans, which took place at the World Heritage site, Coro and its Port, Venezuela, 17 to 18 April, 2007. Results were published in *Casas de Barro, Historias de Vida* (Houses of Earth, Histories of Life).

15. Lastly, in the framework of the conservation project for Africa funded by the Italian Funds-in-Trust, the rehabilitation project of the Youth House in Djenné (Mali) was launched upon selection of the contractor through an open international bidding

process. All other activities were delayed due to a pending budget revision, which has been finally granted in January 2010. The thematic course and training workshop in Djenné as well as the promotional leaflet are currently in an advanced stage of preparation.

### III. World Heritage Cities Programme

16. The *World Heritage Cities Programme* (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/cities>) was established in 2001 to assist States Parties in their efforts to protect and conserve their urban heritage. As cities have a constant need for upgrading or further development of infrastructure, housing and services, the *World Heritage Cities Programme* aims to address the permanent challenge of how to accommodate the needs for modernization and investment in historic cities without compromising historic character and identity.

17. The Programme has a 2-tiered structure, with firstly facilitating and participating in the further development of the theoretical basis for urban conservation, and secondly with providing technical assistance to local and national governments to advise on the implementation of new approaches through national programmes and site-specific actions. In particular World Heritage cities that are under scrutiny of the Committee are prioritized for action. Activities implemented, or under implementation, during the past year include the following:

- Development of new international guidelines for urban conservation in the form of a *UNESCO Recommendation on the Conservation of Historic Urban Landscape*, as per Resolution **35C/42** of 16 October 2009 of the 35th session of the General Conference of UNESCO. It specified that the process of drafting has two components: firstly a Category VI Expert Meeting organized by UNESCO inviting international experts in their personal capacity to prepare a first Draft of the Recommendation.

- Secondly a Category II intergovernmental meeting, where all Member States of UNESCO, as well as NGOs, will be represented to provide comments and inputs in order to finalize the draft Recommendation. The Category VI Expert Meeting took place from 17 to 19 February 2010 at UNESCO's Headquarters, while the Category II Inter-Governmental Meeting has provisionally been scheduled in Paris for February 2011 in order to submit the Final Draft Recommendation to the General Conference in the fall of 2011.

18. Per Decision **33 COM 7.1** an Expert Meeting was organized from 7 to 11 December 2009 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and hosted by IPHAN to prepare a draft text for the possible inclusion of the concept of Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) in the *Operational Guidelines*, for examination by the Committee at its 34th session (2011, Manama).

19. An international Expert Meeting was organized from 30 November to 3 December 2009 in Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania, to discuss the application of the concept of the Historic Urban Landscape in the African context. The meeting was financed under the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust at World Heritage Centre.

20. A Publication of "Managing Historic Cities" was produced under the World Heritage Papers Series. It explains rationale and process of the Historic Urban Landscape Initiative, including ten papers that were presented at various expert meetings on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) concept.

21. In a collaborative effort between the World Heritage Centre, the Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC), the Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) in Los Angeles, and the City of Lyons (France) a Best Practice Guide for Urban Management is under development to facilitate direct city-to-city cooperation. The World Heritage Centre's input is financed through the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust and the Convention France-UNESCO at the World Heritage Centre

22. A web-based tool for the assessment of development impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage cities was developed in collaboration with Eindhoven University of Technology in the Netherlands.

#### **IV. The World Heritage Forests Programme**

23. The World Heritage Committee at its [25th session](#) (Helsinki, 2001), agreed that forests needed a particular focus, and approved the creation of the World Heritage Forest Programme to ensure that the *World Heritage Convention* be leveraged/used/mobilized as much as possible to further forest conservation on a global scale. It stated that the Forest Programme would be useful to address conservation issues prevalent in all regions through site-specific activities so that concrete lessons can serve to improve methodology (Decision **XVII.10**).

24. To this date there are 97 World Heritage Forest properties ranging in size from 18 hectares (Vallée de Mai, Seychelles), to 8.8 million hectares (Lake Baikal, The Russian Federation). World Heritage Forest properties now have a total surface area of over 76 million hectares (1.5 times the surface area of France) and represent over 13% of all IUCN category I-IV protected forests

25. The World Heritage Forest Programme functions exclusively with the support of extra-budgetary resources. One staff person from the Special Projects Unit (SPU) of the World Heritage Centre has been given the responsibility, beyond regular duties, to act as the focal point. Activities reported below are indicative of those that have helped implement the "5 Cs" within this programme.

26. The Central African World Heritage Forest Initiative (CAWHFI) continued to be implemented with financing from the European Union and the Government of France, and the World Heritage Biodiversity Programme for India, in which three World Heritage forest sites are participating. A nomination was submitted for a transboundary forest site between Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Congo (Brazzaville).

27. A 5 year capacity-building programme for site managers in Asia Pacific region was launched focusing on business planning for natural World Heritage sites. The first participating sites included 2 World Heritage Forest sites (Kinabalu – Malaysia, and Ujun Kulong – Indonesia). 27 sites are expected to participate in this programme over the next 4 years, they include many World Heritage Forest sites.

28. Support was obtained from the Government of Belgium and Netherlands to develop a practical guide to carrying out a detailed climate change risk assessment (vulnerability assessment) for World Heritage Forest properties and developing appropriate management responses (adaptation measures) to better mitigate the threats.



29. The Centre participated in proposal development for access to the Congo Basin Forest Fund focusing on the implementation of REDD (Reduced Emissions from forest Destruction and Degradation) work in the Dja Faunal Reserve (Cameroon).

30. Also, the Rapid Response Facility for Natural World Heritage Sites supported an application from Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia).

31. Finally, the year 2011 has been declared the International Year of Forests by the United Nations. The World Heritage Centre is attempting to raise funds in support of World Heritage Forest related activities in 2011.

## **V. World Heritage Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) Programme**

32. Since the adoption of the *Global Strategy for a Balanced, Representative and Credible World Heritage List* by the World Heritage Committee (Santa Fé, 1994), the World Heritage Centre developed Regional Action Plans focusing on World Heritage activities in the under-represented regions of Africa, Asia/Pacific, and the Caribbean, among others. At its twenty-second session (Kyoto, 1998) the Committee examined and adopted the first "Global Strategy Progress Report, Synthesis and Action Plan for a Representative and Credible World Heritage List" (see document *WHC-98/CONF.203/18*). At the twenty-third session of the Committee (Marrakech, 1999), multi-year regional plans of action for the implementation of the Global Strategy in Africa, the Pacific and the Caribbean, among others, were adopted that followed up on the Action Plan of 1998 (see document *WHC-2000/CONF.204/11*).

33. To discuss the development of new, updated, regional Action Plans in World Heritage, two major meetings were held in SIDS regions prior to the launch of the World Heritage Programme for SIDS in 2005. In the Caribbean, representatives of twenty Caribbean States Parties and Associated Territories gathered at the Conference on the Development of a Caribbean Action Plan in World Heritage (available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/series/18/>), held in Castries, Saint Lucia from 23 to 27 February 2004 (see document *WHC-03/28.COM/INF.16*). In the Pacific, a similar meeting was held at Tongariro National Park, New Zealand from 17 to 22 October 2004, with representatives of 14 Pacific Island Countries, as well as representatives from Australia, New Zealand, French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Rapa Nui (Easter Island, Chile), which developed an Action Plan for the implementation of the World Heritage Pacific 2009 Programme (available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/5/>).

34. From 10 to 14 January 2005, the United Nations' "International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" took place in Port Louis, Mauritius. At that meeting UNESCO led Plenary Panel three on "The Role of Culture in the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States". The meeting concluded with the adoption of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (available at: <http://www.unesco.org/en/sids>).

35. In a direct follow-up to the Mauritius meeting, the World Heritage Centre designed the World Heritage Programme for SIDS, aiming at a coordination of efforts to exchange information on and implement the Mauritius Strategy within the context of the *World Heritage Convention* and the Action Plans for the Caribbean and the

Pacific. This Programme was adopted at the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee in Durban, South Africa, in 2005 (**Decision 29 COM 5B**).

36. Further to this and as requested by **33 C/Resolution 3** of the General Conference, UNESCO's Director-General has established the Intersectoral Platform for the Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, under the lead of the Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences. Through this platform, in which the World Heritage Centre is actively participating, UNESCO will pursue a strategy aimed at a holistic, integrated approach to sustainable island living and development with intergenerational and interregional perspectives.

37. This Intersectoral Platform aims at developing integrated heritage policies for SIDS, covering natural, cultural, intangible and movable heritage and contributing to World Heritage activities on islands in the Caribbean, the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans, which are under-represented on the World Heritage List. Among others, this entails technical assistance for the preparation of Tentative Lists and nominations, and capacity-building of staff and institutions. Activities also build on the results of the 2007 Conference "Islands as Crossroads: Cultural Diversities in Small Island Developing States" (see [http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL\\_ID=33517&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=33517&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)) in Victoria, Seychelles.

38. The World Heritage Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) Programme achieved since the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee (Seville, 2009) a number of activities which are described as follows:

- (a) A brochure on "Islands in a Sea of Change - UNESCO Intersectoral Platform for SIDS" was published in September 2009 on the occasion of the 35th session of the General Conference of UNESCO.
- (b) The Pacific World Heritage Workshop took place from 2 and 7 November 2009 in Maupiti, French Polynesia, to build capacities in developing nominations files, introduce the forthcoming second Periodic Reporting Exercise in Asia and the Pacific (2010-2011) and develop an Action Plan for the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* in the Pacific for the period 2010-15 which will be submitted to the 34th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2010 (Brasilia).
- (c) From 16 to 19 January 2010 UNESCO Office in New Delhi undertook a mission to the Maldives, and discussed the follow-up of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre's mission of May 2009 concerning the preparation of a nomination file of Friday Mosque, the expansion of Tentative List, the drafting of a Heritage Act and the implementation of an awareness-raising campaign.
- (d) The Regional Expert Meeting on Heritage Biodiversity and Community was held in Havana, Cuba from 26 to 29 October 2009, to discuss the improvement of management of natural heritage sites and protected areas, study and debate on lessons learnt and enhancement of the application of heritage toolkits. This was the first pilot workshop on Cultural Landscapes within the framework of the Caribbean Capacity-Building Programme.
- (e) The final Draft of the training module 6 on management of natural heritage within the framework of the Caribbean Capacity-Building Programme was produced after the regional meeting entitled "Heritage, Biodiversity and Community".

## VI. World Heritage Marine Programme

39. The World Heritage Marine Programme was established by the World Heritage Committee at its 29th session, Decision **29 COM 5** (Durban, 2005).

40. The **goal** of the World Heritage Marine Programme is effective conservation of existing and potential marine and coastal protected areas of Outstanding Universal Value. Based on the performance indicators and benchmarks adopted by the World Heritage Committee in 2006 (Decision **30 COM6**), the Marine Programme has made progress toward the fulfillment of the five strategic objectives as follows:

41. In terms of **Credibility**, the Bahrain Action Plan is currently being finalized. The report helps identifying marine regions and ecosystem types, not yet represented on the World Heritage List. Also, a WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE-IUCN joint Technical Workshop on new potential marine sites will be held in Vilm, Germany from 30 June - 4 July 2010. And lastly, a one-day meeting on marine World Heritage will be added to the conference to be held at the Scripps Research Institute, San Diego, United States of America in November 2010. This conference will aim at identifying marine protected areas in the Arctic region. The results will feed into (a) The forthcoming meeting on World Heritage Arctic sites which will be organized in the Russian Federation by the Centre in cooperation with UNESCO Moscow office in 2011 and (b) the Thematic Study on the Arctic which IUCN is currently preparing.

42. For what concerns **Conservation**, an analysis of the management effectiveness of marine World Heritage sites has been initiated. It will provide the basis for new capacity-building projects. Interim results are expected in August 2010. Also, a project has been initiated with the University of California, Santa Barbara, United States of America, to map the cumulative human impacts on marine World Heritage sites at a global scale.

43. To **build their capacities**, a first meeting of marine World Heritage site managers will be held in November 2010 with a view to encourage the exchange of good management practices. A joint workshop between the World Heritage Centre and UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission is being prepared to develop a roadmap on how to improve ecosystem-based management in marine World Heritage sites. Furthermore a new project is being initiated to bring together major capacity-building efforts done by other organizations, including NGOs, in marine World Heritage sites. The aim of this project is to better identify new capacity building needs. Finally, negotiations have started with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to develop training modules on designating marine World Heritage sites as 'particular sensitive sea areas' (PSSA).

44. A brochure for the World Heritage Marine Programme has been developed that enables better **communication** of the added value of marine world heritage and helps in attracting new funding. 8 marine sites have been featured in the International Herald Tribune as part of the 'Tides of Time' partnership and 8 new sites have been identified for media releases during the coming year.

45. Each of the above-mentioned activities are partly initiated to strengthen the marine World Heritage **community**, consisting of (a) marine World Heritage site managers responsible for the conservation of the site; (b) marine conservation experts and researchers who study marine World Heritage and provide technical expertise; (c) publishers and press officials who help raising awareness for marine World Heritage

## VII. World Heritage Thematic Programme on Prehistory

46. As requested by the Drafting Group of Decision **33 COM 5A**, and subsequent to consultations with international scientific experts, the Advisory Bodies and States Parties, a change of title of the Programme was suggested upon, *Human Evolution: adaptations, dispersals and social developments (HEADS)*.

47. Since its adoption by the World Heritage Committee in 2009 (Decision **33 COM 5A**) the Programme has focused on the identification of and close collaboration with key international scientific organizations to develop the priorities and implementation of the Action Plan in collaboration with the World Heritage Committee, representatives of the States Parties, Advisory Bodies, and the specialized institutions. The objectives of the Programme aim at defining and establishing a solid strategy of cooperation and implementation to ensure the future recognition, conservation and research of these vulnerable sites in relation to World Heritage under the overall coordination of the World Heritage Centre.

48. Financed by the Spanish Funds-in-Trust and launched in the framework of the *Global Strategy for a Balanced and Representative World Heritage List*, a thematic study on Prehistory and World Heritage was undertaken at the request of the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session in Quebec in 2008 (Decision **32.COM 10A**). Between August 2008 and May 2009 activities focused on the scientific study of the World Heritage List and the Tentative Lists to identify priorities for conservation and management of the sites, as well as to generate a twinning system for collaboration among sites.

49. Continued consultation and cooperation with specialized institutions of interdisciplinary research and applied research for conservation has underpinned the Programme's objectives and direction, including that with: Origins Centre/ University of Witwatersrand (South Africa), Museum national d'histoire naturelle (France), Università degli studi di Roma La Sapienza (Italy), Harvard University (USA), Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC, Spain), and University of Tübingen (Germany), among others.

50. Objectives are to:

- *Establish links between scientific research and conservation by recognizing the scientific values of related properties:*
  - Define key issues in the identification and inscription of properties relating to the evaluation of Outstanding Universal Value;
  - Develop cooperation agreements with States Parties aiming to promote these sites, through the elaboration of serial nominations and the development of conservation and research activities;
  - Identify priorities for the safeguarding and promotion of these properties in order to open new pathways for cooperation and new partner support;
  - Development and implementation a scientific consultative process to ensure consensus in future Programme implementation and global responsiveness;
  - Foster greater cooperation between the World Heritage Centre and

scientific research through the foreseen establishment of a Category II Centre in Spain, supported by the Spanish Government as proposed at the 33rd session of the World Heritage Committee in 2009.

- *Operate within the framework of the Global Strategy (1994) to broaden the definition of World Heritage in better reflecting the full spectrum of the world's cultural and natural treasures;*
  - Foster networks through the creation of a roster of experts, site managers, Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre;
  - Create a webpage for the Programme as part of the UNESCO WHC web portal to develop an international information database to foster networks and platforms to maximize resources for disseminating research, implementation approaches and policies;
  - Develop an international archive of rock art in collaboration with existing regional, national, thematic and site-specific archives of rock art.
  
- *Recognize sites that are outstanding demonstrations of traces of the earliest interaction between humankind and the land, early cultural behaviour, cognitive steps and creative expressions;*
  - Coordinate thematic studies in cooperation with the Advisory Bodies ICOMOS and IUCN and the African World Heritage Fund to elaborate current scientific research of sites of significant places of human origin, management and conservation methodology and to update national Tentative Lists;
  - Promote greater information exchange between the World Heritage Committee and the States Parties to the *Convention* on the programme at national and site levels. The Action Plan is foreseen to strengthen cooperation with local and continuing communities and assess participatory methodologies in the nomination process, conservation and management activities.
  
- *Preserve the identified properties from progressive deterioration due to their ancient chronology and vulnerable fabric;*
  - Identify key sites of good practice studies to extend and share knowledge of conservation methods, applied research initiatives and capacity building, for example, the pertinence of sites in Arctic areas impacted by climate change. Cooperation has also been developed in relation to non inscribed sites, such as the Chinchorro Cultures (Tentative List, Chile).

51. Activities undertaken in 2009-2010 included:

- *Implementation of the Action Plan, Scientific Working Group* (UNESCO Headquarters, 12-14 September, 2009). An international meeting to review the implementation of the recommendations of the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session, and to address the direction of the programme in preparation of the finalization of the Action Plan for submission to the 34th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2010. The meeting involved the participation of scientific experts from Harvard University (USA), Museum national d'histoire naturelle (France), Università degli studi di Roma La Sapienza (Italy), University of Tübingen (Germany) and University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa).
  
- *Action Plan, Drafting Committee 33 COM 5A* (UNESCO Headquarters, 22

October 2009). Discussions focused on the recommendations of Decision **33 COM 5A** related to the Programme between the Delegations of Australia, Bahrain, Israel, Kenya, Spain and the USA, as well as the subsequent developments in the finalization of the Action Plan for submission to the 34th session of the World Heritage Committee.

- *Action Plan, Advisory Bodies* (UNESCO Headquarters, 27 October 2009). The meeting brought together the results and conclusions of the previous meetings and discussed the related thematic studies and contribution of the Advisory Bodies to future actions.

- *Rock Art International Archive* (UNESCO Headquarters, 22 December 2009). In response to the preparation of an international rock art repository, a meeting was held between six representatives from specialized institutions working in the digital archiving of rock art: Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC, Spain), Origins Centre (South Africa), Centro Camuno di Studi Preistorici (Italy), International Union of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Science (UISPP) at Instituto Politécnico de Tomar (Portugal) and the Swedish Archive for Rock Art Research (Sweden).

- *The Chinchorro Culture from a Comparative Perspective* (Arica, Chile, 5-8 January, 2010) An international expert meeting was held on the comparative analysis of the Archaeological sites of the Chinchorro Culture submitted to the Tentative List in 1998. Twelve specialists, ten national experts and representatives from ICOMOS and the Chilean National Committee attended the meeting. Cooperation was established between the *Consejo de Monumentos Nacionales* (CMN) and the University of Tarapacá (Chile).

- *Comparative Analysis of the Archaeological site Delta of Diquis* (Costa Rica, 8-12 March, 2010). The Centre with the Ministry of Culture of Costa Rica and UNESCO Office in San José, organized an International Expert Meeting for the elaboration of a comparative analysis of the prehistoric site of the Delta of Diquis. The activity was co-financed by the Spanish Funds-in-Trust.

- *Action Plan Scientific Working Group* (UNESCO Headquarters, 17-18 May, 2010). This international meeting aimed at preparing the Draft Action Plan submitted to the 34th session of the World Heritage Committee in Brasilia, July 2010. A revised Programme title was suggested: *Human Evolution: adaptations, dispersals and social developments (HEADS)*, as well as defining and prioritizing areas of future development.

- *Advisory Bodies Thematic Study on Hominid Fossil-Bearing Sites for Potential Inscription on the World Heritage List*. A thematic study, financed by Spanish Fund-in-Trust, on sites with strong links to human evolution in the context of the Programme will continue the progress made in a previous study carried out by ICOMOS in 1997. It will be finalized in December 2010. A subsequent publication will be produced based on the research and findings of the study.

- *International Rock Art Archive* (UNESCO Headquarters, 5-6 July, 2010). In support of the development of an international rock art archive to be hosted by the World Heritage Centre web portal, a meeting was organized to evaluate the current available technical resources, established networks and cooperation protocols. Ten international experts took part in discussions.

The following activities are currently under preparation:

- Publication, *Human Evolution: adaptations, dispersals and social developments* (August 2010). The publication in English and Spanish outlines the activities, discussions and recommendations (August 2008- May 2010) held during international meetings, supplemented by scientific contributions by international experts on specific thematic areas of study.

- *International meeting on the Preparation of a Road Map to promote the inscription of African Human Origin sites on the World Heritage List* (October 2010). Discussions will take place in view of launching the process of establishing a road map in support of the future conservation of human origin sites in Africa. The meeting will be organized by the African World Heritage Fund and UNESCO World Heritage Centre. Within the framework of the UNESCO Action Plan (Medium Term Strategy 2009-2013) and the African World Heritage Fund Strategic Plan 2010-2014, the activities proposed aim to establish a solid scientific working framework and the necessary research documentation for substantiating a feasible nomination of African Human Evolution sites to the World Heritage List.

- *International Meeting, Management Plan of Tchitundo Hulo Rock Art site*, (Angola, between October 2010 and January 2011, to be confirmed). Organised by and at the request of the African World Heritage Fund, this international meeting aims at revising the management plan of the site, in the context of conservation methods for the vast spectrum of rock art in the Region, and creating twinning initiatives between sites. The meeting will be also organized by UNESCO, in collaboration with the Angolan Ministry of Culture, Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Namibia Provincial Government, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) office in Luanda and the Advisory Bodies.

- *Webpage*. A webpage for the Programme will be launched in September 2010 as part of the World Heritage Centre web portal. Designed to provide a platform for knowledge resource and exchange, to reinforce and develop international cooperation and maintain information channels in the current and future developments of the Programme. At the request of international experts, Advisory Bodies and States Parties, the page aims to provide a global knowledge resource for States Parties, policymakers, experts, institutions and site managers in support of sustainable conservation following the inscription of World Heritage sites, and comparative analysis for candidate sites for future nomination.

- Publication of the *Comparative Analysis on Archaeology of Hunter-gatherers, Archeological sites of the Chinchorro Culture* (October 2010). Including scientific contributions from eight international experts, the publication aims to support the identification of Outstanding Universal Value and the process of nomination for the Archeological sites of the Chinchorro Culture.

- Publication on the results of the international meeting for the Comparative Analysis for the Archeological site Delta del Diquis in Costa Rica, which was held in the framework of the nomination process of the site to the World Heritage List (6-12 March 2010, Costa Rica), as well as a comparative analysis of Pre-Hispanic chiefdoms in Central America.

- *Meeting to formulate the conservation plan for the Rock Art of Samaipata* (Bolivia, November 2010), financed by the Spanish Funds-in-Trust, in collaboration with the Ministry of Cultures of Bolivia, Bolivian Rock Art Research Society (SIARB), *Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas* (CSIC), Spain, and *Istituto Centrale del Restauro*, Italy.

- Following the decision of the Ministry of Culture and Information of Bahrain to build a museum in Aali on the Burial Ensembles, the Government of Bahrain will launch a long-term project on the Burial Ensembles of Dilmun and Tylos (Tentative List, Bahrain) to interpret the values of the Burial Ensembles, plan future research, and establish management, conservation and protection of the site.

- Proposal of a UNITWIN/ UNESCO Chairs network is being developed between the World Heritage Centre, National Commissions and specialized institutions. The project will primarily involve an interdisciplinary cooperation dealing with the natural history and cultural diversity related to human evolution: nature, human and conservation sciences (palaeoecology, prehistoric archaeology, palaeoanthropology, heritage conservation). It will further focus on fostering North-South-South cooperation and intersectoral collaboration with social anthropology, primatology, museology and educational sciences. The project is foreseen to start in October 2011.

## VIII. World Heritage and Astronomy Initiative

52. The objective of the Astronomy and World Heritage thematic initiative, developed since 2004 (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/astronomy>) as requested by the World Heritage Committee at its 28th and 29th sessions (Decisions **28 COM 9** and **29 COM 5B**), is to establish a link between science and culture on the basis of research aimed at acknowledging the cultural and scientific values of properties connected with astronomy. The identification, safeguarding and promotion of these properties are the three lines of actions for the implementation of this programme.

53. In 2008-2009, the network of partners was reinforced, international efforts to recognize astronomical heritage were coordinated and new strategic policy lines were developed. The promotion of astronomical World Heritage was increased.

54. The International Astronomical Union Working Group on Astronomy and World Heritage (IAU WG) was created and became fully operational in 2009 (<http://www.astronomicalheritage.org>). This reinforces the capacity-building strategy of the *World Heritage Convention*.

55. To implement the *Integrated Strategy* of the initiative, examined by the World Heritage Committee at its 32nd session (Decision **32 COM 5**), a *Statement of Working Methods and Formal Processes for the Implementation of Activities* was established within the framework of the [Memorandum of Understanding](#) between UNESCO and IAU.

56. In order to facilitate the identification and nomination process of astronomical sites, a cycle of activities *Astronomy and World Heritage: across time and continents* was launched by the Director-General of UNESCO in 2009 during the opening ceremony of the International Year of Astronomy.



57. In order to raise the credibility of the *World Heritage Convention*, numerous events were organized by the States Parties, in coordination with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, in 2009 and early 2010. The main activities are the followings: an International Youth Summer Camp on Astronomy and World Heritage, organized by the WHITR-AP Suzhou Centre (Suzhou, China, July 2009), an International Conference on "Astronomy and World Heritage: across time and continents" organised and hosted by the Russian Federation (Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan, August 2009), an International Seminar on Astronomical Heritage organized by the Egyptian National Commission for UNESCO, with support of the World Heritage Funds (Cairo, Egypt, February 2010).

58. Furthermore, the IAU Working Group and ICOMOS have developed a global thematic study on astronomical heritage, including space technological heritage, in line with the decision of the 32nd session of the World Heritage Committee (Decision **32 COM 10A**).

59. Restricted web access to this Thematic Study will be available on <http://www.astronomicalheritage.org/> before the Committee session (click on the "UNESCO members click here" button and then enter the Password: 34COM). This Study may be used as the basis for developing specific guidelines for States Parties for the nomination of astronomical cultural properties to the World Heritage List.

## IX. Draft Decision

*Draft Decision: 34 COM 5F*

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Documents WHC-10/34.COM/5F and WHC-10/34.COM/INF.5F.1 and WHC-10/34.COM/INF.5F.2,*
2. *Takes note, with satisfaction, of the progress made in the implementation of the World Heritage Thematic Programmes;*
3. *Takes note of the progress on the World Heritage Tourism Programme, including the work undertaken through the Sustainable Tourism Initiative to develop overarching criteria and shared working principles and approaches to enhance the quality and effectiveness of sustainable tourism at World Heritage properties;*
4. *Acknowledges the evaluation of the World Heritage Tourism programme being undertaken by the UN Foundation;*
5. *Welcomes the report and recommendations of the international workshop on "Advancing Sustainable Tourism at Natural and Cultural Heritage Sites" held in Mogao, China in September 2009 as presented in Document WHC-10/34.COM/INF.5F.1;*
6. *Commends the important contribution of the international Scientific Working Group, States Parties and Advisory Bodies in the development of World Heritage Thematic Programme on Prehistory and approves the suggestion of the Drafting group to revise the name of the World Heritage Thematic Programme on Prehistory as "Human Evolution : Adaptations, Dispersals and Social Developments (HEADS)";*

7. Takes note of the activities organized by the States Parties within the framework of the Thematic Initiative "Astronomy and World Heritage", and requests the World Heritage Centre to disseminate the Thematic Study on Astronomical Heritage jointly prepared by ICOMOS and the IAU Working Group, in conformity with its Decision 32 COM 10A, among the States Parties;
8. Thanks the States parties having supported the implementation of the World Heritage Thematic Programmes;
9. Takes particular note of the contribution of the other World Heritage Thematic Programmes and Initiatives to the implementation of its Strategic Objectives and requests the Director of the World Heritage Centre to identify extra budgetary funding and ensure adequate staffing for their continued development on key World Heritage conservation issues;
10. Requests the World Heritage Centre to present a progress report on the Thematic programmes at its 36th session in 2012.