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# World Heritage

# 37 COM

**WHC-13/37.COM/6**

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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC  
AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF  
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

**Thirty-seventh session**

**Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
16 – 27 June 2013**

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

## **SUMMARY**

By its decisions **36 COM 6** and **36 COM 9B**, respectively, the World Heritage Committee requested a progress report on the activities of the category 2 centres related to World Heritage as well as a report on the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (WHCBS), for examination at its 37th session in 2013. Considering their close links, these two reports are presented together within the present document.

**Draft Decision: 37 COM 6**, see Point III.

## **I. FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORLD HERITAGE CAPACITY BUILDING STRATEGY**

1. The World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (WHCBS) was approved by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session (Paris, 2011). The Capacity Building Strategy was developed over several years by ICCROM and IUCN in collaboration with ICOMOS, the World Heritage Centre, and other capacity-building partners. The work was made possible by contributions from the World Heritage Fund and the Swiss Government which also provided professional expertise. At its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012), the Committee welcomed an accompanying Capacity Building Programme prepared by the Advisory Bodies and World Heritage Centre in order to implement a part of the overall strategy.

### **A. Ongoing IUCN-ICCROM Capacity Building Initiative**

2. The project, co-managed by IUCN and ICCROM in consultation with ICOMOS, and with funding from the Swiss Government, is in its last year of implementation. The project is a collective effort by the Advisory Bodies to provide a coordinated response to capacity building needs within the World Heritage system.
3. In the period from September 2012 to March 2013, the following workshops were carried out for cultural and natural heritage professionals in order to provide a better understanding of the World Heritage Convention and its processes. The aim of these workshops was to strengthen the technical networks of the Advisory Bodies for the regions involved. Over the full 3-year period of the programme, 91 professionals from 57 countries took part in the 7 workshops implemented (this activity corresponds to Action 2.8 of the WHCBS).
  - a) From 17 to 22 September 2012, a regional World Heritage workshop for the region of Asia and the Pacific was held in Shanghai, China, in collaboration with the World Heritage Institute for Training and Research in Asia and Pacific (WHITR-AP) category 2 centre;
  - b) From 18 to 23 November 2012, a regional World Heritage workshop for the Arab States region was held in Tunis, Tunisia in collaboration with the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) category 2 centre and the Tunisian National Institute of Heritage. This workshop was for French-speaking professionals;
  - c) From 18 to 22 March 2013, a combined regional World Heritage workshop for the Latin America and Eastern European regions was held at IUCN Headquarters in Gland, Switzerland.
4. From 11 to 13 June 2012, ICCROM and IUCN met with staff and faculty of the World Heritage Studies programme at the Brandenburg University of Technology in Cottbus, Germany, to carry out a participatory assessment of its Masters Degree programme. The assessment was designed to aid the university to strengthen its World Heritage courses, and to create possibilities for building partnerships between the Advisory Bodies and the programme. As a result of this assessment, representatives of both ICCROM (in December 2012) and IUCN (in January 2013) participated as lecturers in the course on management of World Heritage properties (this activity corresponds to Actions 1.3 and 3.4 of the WHCBS).

5. In June 2012, the third issue of the World Heritage Capacity Building Newsletter was published and distributed at the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee. (This activity corresponds to Actions 10.2 and 10.3 of the WHCBS).

**B. ICCROM World Heritage Programme: Improving conservation and Management Practices through the World Heritage Convention**

6. As part of its programme, Improving Conservation and Management Practices through the World Heritage Convention, ICCROM implemented a two-week training in collaboration with WHITR-AP and ICOMOS on Heritage Impacts Assessments for cultural properties. The course took place in Lijang, China, and also benefited from the support of the local government. 16 international participants took part in the course (this activity corresponds to Actions 3.3, 3.4, 3.6, and 5.2 of the WHCBS).
7. ICCROM also continues to update its training database, which contains information on regular training opportunities for World Heritage and for cultural heritage conservation in general. ICCROM's website also contains an events database (meetings, seminars and workshops) and a classifieds section, which contains information on other events and activities related to heritage conservation.

**C. Regional Capacity Building Strategies**

8. The World Heritage Centre, Advisory Bodies, category 2 centres, and interested States Parties are also working on the development and implementation of regional capacity building strategies as called for by the WHCBS. WHITR-AP is currently working with States Parties in the Asia region to develop a new capacity building strategy based on the results of the periodic reporting exercise. A course on nominations was also held in Bali, Indonesia as a result of the periodic reporting. The Europe and North America Unit of the World Heritage Centre is currently working with States Parties from Eastern European sub-region on a capacity building strategy. In the Arab States region, both the ARC-WH category 2 centre and the ATHAR programme (implemented by ICCROM) are conducting training activities for the benefit of the region, and in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Africa World Heritage Fund category 2 centre has just initiated a new programme on improving the response to disaster risk in the region. The Latin America region, which will present its Periodic Report in 2013, will be scheduled to develop a strategy over the next year (this activity corresponds to Action 1.6 of the WHCBS).

**D. Implementation of the World Heritage Capacity Building Programme**

9. Following the presentation of the World Heritage Capacity building programme to the World Heritage Committee at its 36th session, ICCROM, in partnership with the other Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre, have continued implementation of existing planned activities, and have begun work to find the necessary funding to carry out the programme. Priority activities identified within the programme include the implementation of courses on management of cultural and natural heritage, the creation of resource and guidance materials for States Parties, short workshops on key World Heritage themes, and the continued strengthening of the networks of the Advisory Bodies. It is expected that there will be a need for approximately US\$ 270,000 to implement the activities for 2013, and US\$ 850,000 per year in subsequent year for full implementation (US\$ 400,000 for implementation of priority activities only). To date, the Swiss Government has expressed an interest in continuing to support capacity building, and discussions are ongoing. There is an acute need, however, for other States Parties, as well as other potential funding and implementation organizations with an interest in capacity building, to contribute to the implementation of the overall programme in order to reach a critical mass of funding for the programme to be able to reach its goals.

## II. PROGRESS REPORT ON CATEGORY 2 CENTRES

10. As apparent from Part I above, one of the key players for the implementation of the WHCBS are the category 2 centres related to World Heritage. Part II of this document presents more in detail recent developments regarding their activities (Section E), and notably the results of their third coordination meeting, held in Oslo from 5 to 8 March 2013 (Section F).

### E. Main developments since the 36th Session of the Committee

11. Some of the main developments related to category 2 centres, since the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee, are related to the follow up to the Audit conducted by the UNESCO Internal Oversight Service (IOS) in 2011 and the progress made in the implementation of the related decisions taken by the Executive Board of UNESCO (190 EX/18 Part I).
12. These included a recommendation to the General Conference, at its 37th session (fall 2013), to amend the current integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 Institutes and centres, so as to further strengthen procedures for the establishment, monitoring and renewal of category 2 centres. This should improve the alignment of category 2 centres' programmes with UNESCO's overarching goals and sectoral strategies (e.g. the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy) and reduce the cost to UNESCO of maintaining this network in terms of human and financial resources.
13. In this context, category 2 centres were requested to apply the Results-based-management (RBM) approach in use at UNESCO, in the planning and implementation of their activities. At the same time, it was decided that a new reporting system on category 2 centres, including on their cost to the Organization, would be established within SISTER<sup>1</sup>. Information on all the eight World Heritage related category 2 centres was thus entered by the World Heritage Centre within SISTER during the months of February and March 2013.
14. Among the innovations under consideration, is the submission of new proposals for category 2 centres to the review of the concerned UNESCO subsidiary bodies, before these are brought to the attention of the Executive Board. As far as World Heritage is concerned, this would mean that new proposals for category 2 centres related to World Heritage would need to obtain the green light of the World Heritage Committee as a first step in the process, before a feasibility study is conducted.
15. Other important developments are related to the various processes under way within each region, notably in relation to the Periodic Reporting exercises. In this context, category 2 centres are implementing the decisions taken by the Committee at its last session in Saint Petersburg (**36 COM 9B**, **36 COM 10A** and **36 COM 10B**) which required them to work together with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in the development of regional capacity building programmes as well as of inventories of heritage training centres in all regions.
16. Individual reports were prepared by each category 2 centre including information on its mandate, the status of the establishment of its system of governance, as well as on recent and on-going activities, notably in relation to the above-mentioned decision by the Committee<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> SISTER (System of Information on Strategies, Tasks and the Evaluation of Results) is the online reporting tool in place at UNESCO.

<sup>2</sup> These reports are available (in their original language) through the World Heritage Centre web-site (see: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/category2centres/>).

17. With regard to the two centres which, in 2012, had not yet completed the legal and administrative processes required for the signature of the Agreements with UNESCO, namely the ones in Italy and Spain, the remaining difficulties are apparently in the process of being solved. The formal establishment of these two centres, therefore, is hopefully going to take place before the end of the current year.
18. At the same time, an evaluation of the Nordic World Heritage Foundation (NWHF) is currently underway, by a independent consultancy firm. This evaluation, foreseen in the Agreement signed between Norway and UNESCO and managed by the Norwegian Ministry of Environment in close consultation with the World Heritage Centre, will serve as a basis to inform, at the end of the current Agreement period (2014), a decision by the Executive Board regarding the renewal of the status of category 2 centre for the NWHF.

**F. Third annual coordination meeting of category 2 centres related to World Heritage (Oslo, 5-8 March 2013)**

19. A third annual coordination meeting of category 2 centres took place in Oslo (Norway), from 5 to 8 March 2013, hosted by the NWHF and with the financial support of the Norwegian Ministry of Environment. All eight category 2 centres related to World Heritage were represented, as well as the three Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre.
20. The meeting provided an excellent opportunity to exchange experiences and plan joint initiatives, but most of all to introduce to the category 2 centres the key concepts and processes of the RBM approach, as requested by the Executive Board of UNESCO. This was achieved through a specific workshop, facilitated by a staff from UNESCO's Bureau of Strategic Planning.
21. The RBM workshop was followed by a discussion on the implications of introducing this new tool for the category 2 centres, which resulted in a number of interesting suggestions and decisions. These included the desirability of strengthening synergies and cooperation at regional level between category 2 centres and UNESCO Chairs, IUCN regional networks and ICOMOS National Committees, and at thematic level with ICCROM, ICOMOS International Scientific Committees and the UNESCO UNITWIN Networks.
22. Finally, the representatives of the category 2 centres held bilateral and trilateral meetings among them, to discuss the progress of joint initiatives already agreed last year and/or to plan and develop new activities in cooperation<sup>3</sup>.
23. The main results of this third meeting of category 2 centres related to World Heritage, as reflected also in the agreed recommendations, were the following:
  - a) A stronger integration and coordination among these institutions, whose representatives are developing a closer working relationship and are becoming a genuine network. This is increasingly giving rise to more joint initiatives and exchanges of experiences;
  - b) The decision, by all category 2 centres, to review their strategies and planning by applying the RBM approach, in compliance with the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy, with the support of UNESCO, and present these revised strategies at their next meeting in 2014 for joint discussion;
  - c) The decision to review, in the future and based on the individual strategies and plans, the existing sectoral strategy for category 2 centres for the part concerning

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<sup>3</sup> The full report of the meeting is accessible at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/category2centres>.

- World Heritage, so as to strengthen the identity and image of this network and to integrate orientations for its future development and expansion (gaps and opportunities, etc.);
- d) The decision to continue on-going joint initiatives and develop new activities in cooperation;
  - e) The decision to hold their next coordination meetings in Brazil (2014), Mexico (2015), China (2016) and South Africa (2017).
24. The mainstreaming of the RBM approach by the centres will provide a very good opportunity to ensure that their activities are tied to the priorities established by the Committee and to the regional programmes which emerged from the Periodic Reporting. Thus they contribute directly to the 'expected results' defined within the next C5, as well as towards the goals identified in the 'Strategic Action Plan - 2012-2022', approved by the General Assembly at its 18th session in 2011.

### III. DRAFT DECISION

#### **Draft Decision: 37 COM 6.B**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/6,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **35 COM 9B**, **36 COM 6** and **36 COM 9B**, adopted at its 35th (UNESCO, 2011) and 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012) sessions respectively,*
3. *Welcomes the progress made on the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (WHCBS) and the capacity building activities carried out in 2012 and 2013;*
4. *Thanks the Government of Switzerland for its continued support for the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy;*
5. *Calls on all States Parties and other organizations with an interest in capacity building to provide funding and other support for the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy and its associated programmes at the international and regional levels;*
6. *Acknowledges the very important role that category 2 centres related to World Heritage are playing in the implementation of the WHCBS, and their potential to further contribute to capacity building in general;*
7. *Welcomes the progress made by all category 2 centres related to World Heritage in implementing their activities as well as the outcomes of their third coordination meeting (Oslo, 5-8 March 2013), notably the decision by all of them to review, with the support of UNESCO, their strategies and plans by applying the results-based-management (RBM) approach so as to ensure that their activities are tied to the overall objectives of UNESCO and the priorities established by the Committee;*

8. *Further welcomes the proposed strengthening of synergies and cooperation at the regional level between category 2 centres and UNESCO Chairs, IUCN regional networks and ICOMOS National Committees, and at the thematic level with ICCROM, ICOMOS International Scientific Committees and the UNESCO UNITWIN Networks;*
9. *Thanks the Nordic World Heritage Foundation (Oslo, Norway) for having hosted the third annual coordination meeting of category 2 centres related to World Heritage, with financial support from the Norwegian Ministry of Environment;*
10. *Requests the World Heritage Centre and ICCROM to submit a progress report on the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy and the activities of the category 2 centres related to World Heritage for examination by the Committee at its 38th session in 2014.*