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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-ninth Session

Bonn, Germany

28 June – 8 July 2015

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 Decision **38 COM 6**, the World Heritage Committee requested a progress report on the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy (WHCBS) and the activities of the category 2 centres related to World Heritage to be examined at its 39th session in 2015.

Draft Decision: 39 COM 6, see Part III.

I. FOLLOW UP TO THE CAPACITY- BUILDING STRATEGY

1. The World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy (WHCBS) was approved by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session (Paris, 2011) (Decision **35 COM 9B**). The Strategy was developed by ICCROM and IUCN in collaboration with ICOMOS, the World Heritage Centre (WHC), and other capacity-building partners such as the UNESCO category 2 centres in various regions of the world. The work was made possible by contributions from the World Heritage Fund and the Swiss Government, which also provided professional expertise.
2. Since the adoption of the WHCBS, the Advisory Bodies, WHC and capacity-building partners have been working to implement capacity-building activities at both the regional and international levels to address the needs of heritage practitioners, institutions (decision and policy makers) and other networks and communities (civil society at large). Continued reinforcement of the capacity-building pillar of the *Convention* continues to be a priority to equip States Parties with the relevant expertise to protect and manage their sites, as well as to ensure that the World Heritage List remains representative, credible and balanced.

A. World Heritage Capacity-Building Programme (WHCBP)

3. The World Heritage Capacity-Building Programme (WHCBP) began as a pilot capacity-building project, co-managed by IUCN and ICCROM in consultation with ICOMOS, and with funding from the Swiss Government. This pilot project was based at IUCN and was completed in December 2013. A new phase of the partnership programme, based at ICCROM, started in May 2013, providing for an eight-month transition between the two phases. The new phase of the WHCBP continues to be financially supported primarily by the Swiss Government. Over the past year, the priority activities that have been implemented, and others that are planned for 2015, are as follows:
4. Translation of key World Heritage resource manuals. The four existing resource manuals – “Preparing World Heritage Nominations”, “Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage”, “Managing Natural World Heritage” and “Managing Cultural World Heritage” – are now available online in English, French and Spanish on the website of the World Heritage Centre (see: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/resourcemanuals/>). The Russian Ministry of Culture has ensured the translation of the “Preparing World Heritage Nominations” manual which is available online at: http://mkrf.ru/upload/mkrf/mkdocs2013/26_11_2013_2.pdf. The Russian version of the “Managing Natural World Heritage” manual, which was translated as part of the Capacity-Building programme, will shortly be available on the website of the World Heritage Centre. The Portuguese version of the manual on “Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage” was prepared by the UNESCO Brasilia Office with the support of IPHAN and made available online at: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002318/231807POR.pdf>. Printed copies of the manual “Preparing World Heritage Nominations” are available in the following language versions: English, French, Portuguese and Arabic; “Managing Natural World Heritage”, in French and English; “Managing Cultural World Heritage”, in French and English. The translation of these manuals aims to facilitate States Parties’ ability to prepare new nominations, as well as to protect and conserve their World Heritage sites.
5. Training courses for heritage practitioners. In partnership with the World Heritage Training and Research Institute for Asia and the Pacific (WHITR-AP), ICCROM organised the International Course on Heritage Impact Assessments (HIA) in China (13 to 24 October 2014). The 10-day course provided participants with the knowledge and skills to use the HIA tool for evaluating impacts from various factors affecting World Heritage sites, and heritage sites in general. The course also trained participants on other methodological approaches currently in use, and gave participants the opportunity to conduct a hands-on activity at a World Heritage property. 16 participants from 11 countries attended the course.

6. ICCROM has also developed a new course on the management of cultural and natural heritage. The first module for this course was tested in April 2014 as part of ICCROM's International Course on the Conservation of Built Heritage. The module was well-received by participants. A new course, Engaging Communities in the Conservation of Nature and Culture, will be offered in October 2015, based on the completed curriculum developed on managing cultural and natural heritage.
7. Efforts to continue to strengthen the networks of the Advisory Bodies. Following the successful regional workshops carried out from 2010 to 2013 (see Document WHC-13/37.COM/6 point I), activities have continued to provide resources for former workshop participants to join evaluation and reactive monitoring missions.
8. Capacity-Building Guidance. Work has continued on the development of Capacity-Building Guidance to aid States Parties in the creation of capacity-building strategies and activities. This Capacity-Building Guidance is in draft form and is being circulated to relevant stakeholders for comments. It is expected that the final version will be completed in 2015. A series of interactive online resources on key aspects of the World Heritage Convention are also planned for development in 2015.
9. The fifth issue of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Newsletter will be published and distributed widely through the Advisory Bodies networks in time for the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee. As with the 2014 edition, the newsletter will be published in English, French and Spanish. A section of the newsletter is dedicated to activities of the category 2 centres, which are major players for the implementation of the WHCBS.
10. 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 classified section, which contains information on other events and activities related to heritage conservation. ICCROM's social media (Facebook and Twitter) also contain significant information on conservation issues as well as educational and job opportunities in conservation.
11. Funding from the Swiss Government has been an important pillar of support sustaining the development of the WHCBP. However, as already underlined on the occasion of the 38th session of the Committee, there is an acute need for other States Parties and other potential donors and organizations with an interest in capacity-building, to come forward and contribute to the implementation of the capacity-building programme as well. More of such support is needed for the programme to reach a critical mass, benefit more States Parties and help the WHCBP achieve its vision of ensuring that practitioners, institutions, communities and networks are enlightened, capable and closely aligned in their work to protect World Heritage and to give it a positive role in the life of communities.

B. Regional Capacity-Building Strategies

12. As part of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy, the WHC, Advisory Bodies, category 2 centres and interested States Parties have also been working on the development and implementation of regional capacity-building strategies:
 - a) The World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITR-AP), in consultation with other capacity-building providers and States Parties in the region, concluded a Capacity-Building Strategy and Associated Programmes for Asia and the Pacific (CBSAP-AP). It builds on the results of the Periodic Reporting in the region, but also on information gathered through a questionnaire designed to assess capacity-building needs. The CBSAP-AP sets forth strategic objectives for regional capacity-building actions and includes

associated programmes for their implementation. It includes an inventory of capacity-building activities provided in the region and encourages information sharing and cooperation. The full document is accessible at: (<http://www.whitr-ap.org/index.php?classid=1489&newsid=2271&t=show>). In line with the capacity-building strategy, WHITR-AP organized an International Training Course on Heritage Impact Assessment for Cultural Heritage Sites (Sichuan Province, China, October 2014) and the International Symposium on the UNESCO Recommendation of Historic Urban Landscapes (HUL) (Tongju University, Shanghai, December 2014). Also, the Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training (WNHMT) for the Asia and the Pacific region was established as an integral part of the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in Dehradun, India. This category 2 centre aims to support the implementation of the World Heritage Convention through capacity-building programmes focusing on natural heritage.

- b) Within the framework of the implementation of the Action Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session (Decision **38 COM 10B**), sub-regional action plans for the Caribbean, Central and South America are being developed, which include capacity-building activities. This process is led by the World Heritage Centre, in consultation with the Advisory Bodies and States Parties in the region. At the sub-regional action plan meeting for the Caribbean which took place in Havana, Cuba in November 2014, the second phase of the Caribbean Capacity-Building Programme (CCBP) was discussed and a strategy for implementation adopted for the next five years. The World Heritage Centre is currently seeking financial resources in order to be able to support States Parties in the effective implementation of these sub-regional action plans.
- c) The final meeting of the Periodic Reporting for the Europe region took place in Finland in December 2014. A framework Action Plan was discussed and prepared with the extensive input of all Focal Points from the region. Sub-regional consultations were held on the recommended actions per sub-region in view of outlining sub-regional capacity-building strategies.
- d) In sub-Saharan Africa, the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) continues to implement a regional capacity-building programme which was developed as a result of the Periodic Reporting exercise. To date, a number of activities have been implemented, including workshops on Traditional Management Systems and entrepreneurship, as well as other activities within the “Africa Nature” part of the programme.
- e) In the Arab region, the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) has contributed to a number of capacity-building activities developed as a follow-up to the Periodic Reporting process. These include technical advice and support to States Parties in their revision of Tentative Lists, preparation of Management Plans in view of putting forth new nominations and, lastly, operational activities related to properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. For natural heritage, the Tabé’a Programme has also been developed in close cooperation with IUCN. This programme includes capacity-building in the region, training and support for States Parties in proposing new nominations of natural properties, as well as guidance on the conservation and management of natural World Heritage sites. In addition, the ARC-WH collaborated with the ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Conservation Centre on a training course for Syrian professionals on “First Aid to Cultural Built Heritage in Syria” (24 November to 6 December 2014) that aimed to enhance the technical skills of experts to secure endangered built cultural heritage and take appropriate action in the post-conflict recovery phase. This activity was supported by the World Heritage Centre and UNESCO Beirut, in the framework of “Emergency Safeguarding of the Syrian Cultural Heritage”, a pioneering initiative funded by the European Union. ARC-WH also undertook several awareness-raising and communication initiatives, including the translation of technical documents and dissemination of information

through their website. Finally, ARC-WH has also provided financial support to the World Heritage Centre in its actions regarding conflict-affected areas.

C. Other Capacity-Building Activities

13. Eight workshops involving 153 participants from the Africa region were organized by the AWHF and the World Heritage Centre. The workshop aimed at reinforcing capacities of States Parties in preparing nominations, disaster risk preparedness plans, entrepreneurship training, buffer zones, COMPACT and traditional management systems. They concern 37 World Heritage properties, 23 properties inscribed on the Tentative Lists and four sites not yet registered.
14. The World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, has developed a proposal to put into place a sustainable system of biennial recognition of best practices, following the successful implementation of a pilot initiative which coincided with the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention and recognized good practices in site management at the World Heritage property, Historic Town of Vigan, in the Philippines. The proposed theme of the biennial recognition of best practices for 2016 is Sustainable Tourism. The World Heritage Centre is seeking financial support in order to be able to implement this activity.
15. Another example of a capacity-building activity that facilitates the sharing of best practices in heritage management among site managers is the thematic network developed within the framework of the World Heritage Marine Programme since 2010. This currently includes 47 marine sites in 35 countries, and allows for the exchange of information through a web-based platform, a bi-monthly newsletter and a triannual site managers conference (further information is available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/marine-programme>). The network has facilitated the creation of an official twinning agreement between the Banc d'Arguin National Park (Mauritania) and the Wadden Sea (Germany/The Netherlands) in February 2014, with another twinning agreement currently being prepared between the West Norwegian Fjords – Geirangerfjord and Nærøyfjord (Norway) and Kluane/Wrangell-St. Elias/Glacier Bay/Tatshenshini-Elsek (USA); it has also facilitated the exchange of staff as well as participation in relevant international congresses as a group.

II. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WORLD HERITAGE RELATED CATEGORY 2 CENTRES

16. Part II of this document presents World Heritage related activities implemented by category 2 centres.

A. Activities of the category 2 centres

17. As required annually, individual progress reports are prepared by each of the category 2 centres, which detail their activities since the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee (Doha, 2014). Given the volume of information, these reports will be posted on the website of the World Heritage Centre: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/category2centres/>. Among all the pertinent information concerning the activities of the centres, the reports also include a table indicating programmes and activities that are implemented or planned within the framework of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy. Some examples of activities are also highlighted in Part I B. above.

B. Establishment and Reviews of category 2 centres

18. In conformity with the new integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres adopted by the 37th General Conference of UNESCO in 2013 (**37 C/Resolution 93**)¹, the review

¹ **37C/Resolution 93** stipulates that at least six months prior to the expiration of the agreement between UNESCO and the Member States on the establishment of the category 2 centres in question, a review is required to be carried out on the activities Follow-up to the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy and Progress report on the World Heritage related category 2 centres

of the WHITR-AP was undertaken in summer 2014. The review outcomes were subsequently reported to the 195th session of the UNESCO Executive Board (October 2014). The recommendations presented aimed at strengthening the operations of the centre and improving coordination between the main partners involved. Based on the review outcomes, the Executive Board approved the renewal of the designation of the WHITR-AP as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO, with the stipulation that a review be conducted to ensure the stronger involvement of its Beijing's branch and that the WHITR-AP's outreach activities in the region should encourage the participation of the region's Member States in the Institute's work. The Executive Board also decided to review the potential modification of the agreement between UNESCO and the Government of China at its 197th session (October 2015) (**195 EX/Decision 12 (II)**).

19. A review of the Nordic World Heritage Foundation (NWHF) was also conducted in 2013 and presented to the 195th session of the UNESCO Executive Board. The review outcomes were overall satisfactory, with several areas identified for improvement. However, the Norwegian authorities have decided not to renew the mandate of the NWHF as a category 2 centre, as they are instead considering, in consultation with other Nordic countries, the creation of a new category 2 centre with a different organizational structure and focus area. Further to Norway's decision, the Executive Board decided not to renew the designation of the NWHF as a category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO (**195 EX/Decision 12(II)**). Once formally submitted by the Government of Norway, the proposal for a new category 2 centre shall follow the standard procedure for the designation of new category 2 centres in accordance with the integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres.
20. The review of the AWHF will be carried out before summer 2015. At the time of writing the present report, UNESCO is proceeding with the preparatory steps for undertaking the review of the AWHF. The review outcomes will be presented to the 197th session of the Executive Board for its decision on the renewal of the agreement between UNESCO and the Government of South Africa.
21. The Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training (WNHMT) for the Asia and Pacific region, an integral part of the renowned Wildlife Institute of India (WII), is the newest category 2 centre to be established under the auspices of UNESCO. The Centre aims to contribute to the aims of the World Heritage Convention through capacity-building programmes; to research on identified priority issues, with particular focus on models of community participation; to develop and maintain a documentation centre accessible to the public on World Natural Heritage issues relevant to the region; and to implement exchange programmes with other regional resource centres. At the time of preparation of the report, the agreement between UNESCO and the Government of India has yet to be countersigned by India.
22. Following the non-renewal of the agreement with the NWHF, the number of category 2 centres formally related to World Heritage that are fully affiliated to the Culture Sector is reduced from **nine to eight**. In addition, there is the International Centre on Space Technologies for Cultural and Natural Heritage (HIST) based in China, which deals with heritage protection and takes part in coordination meetings, but is administratively affiliated to the Science sector in UNESCO.
23. There are new initiatives in the pipeline coming from several Member States to create new category 2 centres related to the World Heritage. India plans to establish a Cross-Regional Centre for Cultural Linkages in World Heritage, and Indonesia, a Centre for Human Evolution, Adaption and Dispersals in South East Asia. UNESCO has received a request for action from both Member

of the institutes and the centres and of their contribution to the strategic programme objectives of UNESCO and the strategy for category 2 institutes and centres approved by the General Conference. The outcomes of the review will be presented to the Executive Board, including the recommendation on whether the centres or institute's designation as a category 2 centre of UNESCO should be maintained, terminated or not renewed.

States and a feasibility study is being organized for the establishment of the Indonesian Centre, while the one in India has been postponed for a later date at the request of the Indian authorities. The outcome of the Indonesian feasibility study will determine if the establishment of the centre will take place. It will be presented to the 197th session of the Executive Board, with the final decision to be taken by the 38th session of the General Conference of UNESCO (November 2015).

C. Coordination

24. The 4th annual coordination meeting of the UNESCO World Heritage-related category 2 centres and institutes was held in Shanghai, China, from 23 to 25 May 2014. The report of this meeting is available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/1227/>. The main outcomes of the meeting were for category 2 centres to: mainstream the Result-Based Management (RBM) approach in the development and implementation of their strategies, programmes and activities; continue to enhance their contributions within the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy; strengthen synergies and cooperation at the regional level; develop case studies and best practices as a tool for effective capacity-building programmes; and develop a web platform for category 2 centres to collaborate and share information.
25. Thus far, no centre has proposed the hosting of the next coordination meeting. The World Heritage Centre will continue to explore opportunities for the next coordination meeting, including during their presence at the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee.

D. Application of the New Integrated Comprehensive Strategy for category 2 centres

26. The 37th session of the General Conference of UNESCO (Paris, 2013) adopted a new integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 centres (**37 C/Resolution 93**), which is accessible online at: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0022/002217/221715e.pdf>.
27. Reviews of all category 2 centres are progressively being undertaken to bring them into conformity with this strategy. To date, three out of eight World Heritage-related category 2 centres have or will be undergoing review by the end of 2015 (see paragraphs 18 to 20 above). The reviews of two other centres (the ARC-WH in Bahrain and the Regional Heritage Management Training Centre “Lucio Costa” in Brazil) are due to take place, in principle, over the course of 2016.
28. Pursuant to the new integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 centres and institutes (**37C/Resolution 93**), the reporting on non-operational category 2 centres may take place at the 197th session of the Executive Board. The two category 2 centres which UNESCO has not signed agreements with – the International Centre for Rock Art and the World Heritage Convention in Spain, and the International Research Centre on the Economics of Culture and World Heritage Studies in Italy – may therefore be reported on this occasion.

III. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision 39 COM 6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-15/39.COM/6,*
2. *Recalling decisions **36 COM 6**, **36 COM 9B**, **37 COM 5E**, **37 COM 6** and **38 COM 6** adopted at its 36th, 37th and 38th sessions respectively,*

3. *Commends the progress made in the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy (WHCBS), its accompanying World Heritage Capacity-Building Programme, and the capacity-building activities carried out in 2014 and in the beginning of 2015;*
4. *Notes with appreciation the continued support of the Government of Switzerland in the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Programme;*
5. *Acknowledges the acute need, however, for significant additional contributions and support in order for the programme to be able to reach its goal, and calls upon other States Parties and organizations to provide additional funding and support for the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Programme and associated activities at the international and regional levels;*
6. *Takes note of the development of the regional capacity-building strategies and initiatives as a follow up to the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise in all regions, and calls upon States Parties and all concerned partners and stakeholders to follow-up on the implementation of the strategies developed for each region;*
7. *Encourages the ongoing efforts by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to establish a biennial recognition of best practices, notably through identifying extrabudgetary financial support towards the implementation of this activity;*
8. *Welcomes the progress made by all category 2 centres related to World Heritage in implementing their activities and calls on interested stakeholders to support the activities of these centres;*
9. *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 40th session in 2016.*