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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Fortieth session

Istanbul, Turkey
10 – 20 July 2016

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 Decision **39 COM 6**, the World Heritage Committee requested 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.

Draft Decision: 40 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, 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, the World Heritage Centre 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. Implementation of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy

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. The programme moved to ICCROM in May 2013. The Swiss Government has continued its support capacity building during this period, and ICCROM and IUCN have been working with the Government of Norway to develop a medium term, six-year programme for capacity building, "World Heritage Leadership". This new programme is based on one of the key paradigm shifts identified in the WHCBS, "Connecting Capacity Building for Cultural and Natural Heritage". This new advancement in the capacity building programme will focus specifically on the inter-linkages between cultural and natural heritage in regard to site management, community engagement, resilience, and impact assessment, and will work to promote leadership networks and learning sites which will serve as good practice examples throughout the World Heritage system. The programme is still in development at the time of the writing of this report, but more information will be available at the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee. In the meantime, the following capacity-building activities have taken place between the 39th and 40th sessions of the Committee in support of the WHCBS.
4. Concerning translation of key World Heritage resource manuals, the UNESCO Beijing Office prepared the Chinese versions of four resource manuals – "Preparing World Heritage Nominations", "Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage", "Managing Natural World Heritage" and "Managing Cultural World Heritage" – with support from the China State Administration of Cultural Heritage, ICOMOS China and the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of China. All these resource manuals are available on the website of the World Heritage Centre (see: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/resourcemanuals/>). The National Institute of Historic and Artistic Heritage (IPHAN) and category 2 centre of Brazil (Centro Lúcio Costa) through the UNESCO Brasilia Office and the Portuguese National Commission supported the translation in Portuguese of "Managing Cultural World Heritage". The National Heritage Board of Poland prepared and supported the translation in Polish of "Managing Cultural World Heritage". Finally, ICCROM-ATHAR, and the category 2 centre of Bahrein (ARC-WH) supported the translation of "Preparing World Heritage Nominations" and "Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage" in Arabic. 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 properties.
5. Training courses for heritage practitioners: In partnership with IUCN and with funding from the Norwegian and Swiss governments, ICCROM hosted a course on "People Centred Approaches to

Conservation". The two-week course took place in Rome and the Bay of Naples from 5 – 16 October 2015, with 20 participants from 19 countries representing both the cultural and natural fields. Modules included basic concepts towards developing a people-centred approach to conservation, benefits and processes of engaging communities. The course also visited case study examples in the region, including the World Heritage property Archaeological Areas of Pompei, Herculaneum and Torre Annunziata, and participants contributed their own case studies to the course. A second course is foreseen for later in 2016 and a local course on People Centred Approaches will take place in Albania as part of the Upstream Process for Lake Ohrid.

6. Building on its experience in implementing courses on Heritage Impact Assessment, ICCROM held a special module as part of its Conservation of the Built Heritage Course on Heritage Impact Assessment. The one-week module took place in April 2016 and used as its case study the World Heritage properties of Villa Adriana and Villa d'Este, both in Tivoli (Italy). This special module allowed ICCROM to fine-tune the curriculum, and a new HIA course is planned for October 2016 in Vigan (Philippines) in partnership with the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITR-AP). An additional HIA course is tentatively planned in Zanzibar (Tanzania) at the end of the year in partnership with the African World Heritage Fund, with funding from the German government.
7. Efforts to continue to strengthen the networks of the Advisory Bodies: Following the successful regional workshops carried out from 2010 to 2013, two additional workshops have been carried out. The first was implemented at ICCROM for a group of professionals from the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, and the second, was implemented at IUCN for a group of Nordic heritage professionals.
8. The area of disaster risk management including post-conflict situations remains a priority for ICCROM and its capacity building partners. The international course on First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis will take place in Washington D.C.(USA) in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution in June 2016 as a follow-up to one that took place in 2015 in Amsterdam (The Netherlands) with ICCROM and the Smithsonian joined by the Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO. The annual International Training Course (ITC) on Disaster Risk Management of Cultural Heritage took place in Kyoto, Japan in September 2015 with partners Ritsumeikan University, ICCROM, the World Heritage Centre, and ICOMOS/ICORP. The next course will take place in September 2016.
9. At a more local level, ICCROM, ICOMOS/ICORP, the Smithsonian Institution, and ICOM have been active in Nepal following the earthquake of April 2015. A first series of on-site capacity building workshops were carried out in June of 2015 to work with a national team of cultural heritage professionals to improve their ability to stabilize and secure damaged heritage and continue ongoing First Aid activities. A second series of workshops, held in February 2016, aimed at assisting in designing a shared vision and framework for the reconstruction of damaged cultural heritage sites and the re-housing of displaced cultural collections. These later workshops were implemented in partnership with Government of Nepal and its Department of Archaeology, ICCROM, Ritsumeikan University (Japan) and ICOMOS Nepal, with generous support from the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and the Environment and the UNESCO Kathmandu Office.
10. In the Arab States Region, a number of activities have been implemented over the past year by the ICCROM-ATHAR Centre in Sharjah, in partnership with other organizations towards assisting State Parties in this difficult period of conflict. These include:
 - a) a course on "First Aid to Cultural Heritage in Syria", held in Beirut, Lebanon from 1-10 June 2015 in partnership with UNESCO and ARC-WH in Bahrain.

- b) a course on “Building National Capacities for Libyan Professionals in First Aid and Risk Preparedness for Cultural Heritage” in Djerba, Tunisia, from 12 – 15 June 2015 in partnership with the UNESCO Cairo Office;
- c) a course for Libyan and Yemeni professionals on “Training of Trainers: Preventive Conservation and Risk Preparedness for Movable and Immovable Cultural Heritage”, held in Tunis from 29 October to 5 November 2015 in collaboration with UNESCO Office in Cairo and the National Institute of Heritage in Tunisia.
- d) a regional workshop on the “Protection of Cultural Heritage in Times of Crisis”, held at the ICCROM-ATHAR premises in Sharjah (UAE) from 15 – 17 December 2015, attended by representatives of Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, UAE, and Yemen as well as ALECSO, ISESCO, and ARC-WH.
- e) A meeting for Yemeni professionals on “Training of Trainers” was held in Amman, Jordan from 21 – 23 December 2015 in partnership with the UNESCO Office in Doha.

(More information on some of these activities can be found below in the section on regional training strategies in the Arab States region.)

11. 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 a “Classifieds” section contains information on meetings, seminars, workshops, and 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. In addition, ICCROM has launched, in partnership with the International Association for Classical Archaeology (AIAC), *FASTI Online*, a new international database on archaeological conservation projects, and an associated, peer reviewed, open access journal, *Fasti Online Documents & Research (FOLD&R): Archaeological Conservation*.
12. Funding from the Swiss Government has been instrumental in the development of the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy and the pilot activities of its related programme. The commitment of the Ministry of Climate and Environment of the Government of Norway to a six-year World Heritage Leadership programme should be seen as an important step forward in ensuring a solid base for capacity building within the framework of the World Heritage Convention. Nevertheless, the ambitious goals set out for this programme will require additional partners from States Parties and other organizations to ensure the necessary resources to bring together practitioners, institutions, communities and networks from the culture and nature fields, and ensure that all World Heritage properties have a common framework of good practice for their management and protection.

B. Regional Capacity-Building Strategies

13. 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) In the Asia and the Pacific region, five workshops involving around 145 participants were organized by the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with UNESCO category 2 centres and various national authorities. The World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITR-AP, China), in consultation with other providers of capacity building activities and States Parties in the region, continues to implement the Capacity Building Strategy and Associated Programmes for Asia and the Pacific (CBSAP-AP), adopted by the Committee in June 2014 (Decision **38 COM 6**). In line with this capacity-building strategy, WHITR-AP took the lead in implementing some thematic training activities. In December 2015 a four-day training programme on the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) was

organized at Tongji University, Shanghai (China). This programme reflected on the “what, why, and how” of the HUL approach along with the latest developments of its implementation in the field, and on how strengthening and developing the specialist network for HUL in the Asia-Pacific Region. Additionally, the Centre for World Natural Heritage Management and Training (WNHMT) for the Asia and the Pacific region, established at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in Dehradun, India, organized an international workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction for natural World Heritage properties in the Asia and the Pacific region in August 2015. WNHMT also organized an international training workshop on “Enhancing Capacity for Effective Management of Coastal and Marine World Heritage Sites of the Asia-Pacific Region” in February 2016. Other training and capacity-building workshops were held in Kazakhstan, Bangladesh, Fiji and Vanuatu to reinforce the capacities of States Parties with regard to the preparation of nomination dossiers and the sustainable management of World Heritage properties (details of these activities can be found in Document WHC/16/40.COM/5A).

- b) In the Latin American and the Caribbean region, the Centre Lúcio Costa for Capacity-Building on Heritage Management (C2C-LCC) has conducted a number of activities for the promotion, training and research on cultural heritage (e.g. Second Public call for the selection of articles, translation and publication of the Resource Manuals). Most importantly, in line with the Capacity-Building Strategy described in the Action Plan for World Heritage in South America 2015-2020, and in close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, the Centre Lúcio Costa is organizing an International workshop on the fundamental notions of the 1972 Convention (Planned to take place in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) during the second semester 2016). This workshop will be the first of a series of meetings aiming at contributing to the implementation of the Sub-regional Strategy for South America focused on the needs already identified as a result of the Periodic Reporting exercise for the Latin American and the Caribbean region. Furthermore, the management structure of the Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (Mexico) is still under the consolidation phase and a programme of activities will be defined for the implementation of the Regional Action Plan for World Heritage in Latin America and the Caribbean (PARALC 2014-2024) and the upcoming sub-regional Action Plan for Mexico and Central America.
- c) The Helsinki Action Plan for Europe adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 39th session indicates a number of capacity-building areas. States Parties of Europe have underlined priority areas to be addressed by sub-regional, national or local initiatives by the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting, and in cooperation with the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre where necessary. The Central, Eastern and South-Eastern sub-regional capacity-building strategy is currently being tested, within the framework of the project agreement between the World Heritage Centre and the Georgian authorities. The objective is to enhance the institutional and technical capacity of the national and local authorities, to ensure the cross-institutional collaboration, including development ministries and municipalities in identifying exceptional sites and protection already inscribed on the World Heritage List in Georgia. This project will ensure long-term planning and the reinforcement of management mechanisms and capacities required to deal with the integration and sustainable implementation of heritage protection and development needs in the future. This project is seen as a model for future capacity-building activities in the region. Similarly, the second phase of the upstream project “Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid Region” (Albania/the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) covers an extensive capacity-building programme which has been established in line with the WHCBS and aims to reinforce capacities for integrated site management in a transboundary context at national and local levels.
- d) In close cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Fund and 5th May as the African World Heritage Day, through the organization of a series of events aiming at strengthening the implementation of the regional capacity-building programme. The two events helped to mobilize support for the protection of the World Heritage properties against new threats and to highlight the contribution of heritage to sustainable development. Activities implemented this year, include: workshops on risk

management for heritage practitioners, traditional Management Systems and entrepreneurship, as well as other activities within the “Africa Nature” part of the programme.

- e) In the framework of UNESCO’s Strategy for the Protection of Culture in the Event of Armed Conflict, several capacity-building activities have been implemented by the UNESCO Field Offices in the Arab region in coordination with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS and ICCROM, in order to train heritage professionals to mitigate risks and provide an emergency response for the conservation of cultural heritage in Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen. To date, a number of training courses have been provided, including a workshop on preventive conservation and risk preparedness for cultural collections and built heritage in Libya (October 2015), which was attended by 27 professionals from the Libyan Directorate of Antiquities, the Historic Cities Authority, municipalities and cultural associations working in the field of heritage, as well as by two Yemeni heritage professionals.
- f) In the Arab region, the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) continues to develop a number of capacity-building activities as a follow-up to the Regional Programme in the Arab States. These include technical advice and support to State Parties in the preparation of nomination files, and technical assistance in management and conservation for several World Heritage sites and site proposed for nomination. In the framework of the “Emergency Safeguarding of the Syrian Cultural Heritage” project funded by the European Union, the ARC-WH continued its collaboration with the ICCROM-ATHAR Regional Conservation Centre on another session of the successful training course on “First Aid to Cultural Built Heritage” attended by 23 Syrian professionals (1 to 10 June 2015) and supported by the World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Beirut Office. ARC-WH also undertook several awareness-raising and communication initiatives, including an exhibition on Iraqi Marshlands and the publication of the Tabea’a II Programme progress report which includes recommendations for the long-term sustainability of the Arab region, through effective conservation and management of natural sites. Finally, ARC-WH has also provided financial support to the World Heritage Centre in its actions regarding natural heritage and conflict-affected countries.

C. Other Capacity-Building Activities

- 14. Sixteen activities were carried out in several central African countries to improve the representation of natural world heritage sites in the region. Similar activities were also carried out in both Eastern and Western Africa. Through the contribution of the Swiss Foundation Franz Weber, 60 women from 6 villages from the Dja Fauna Reserve in Cameroon received training in capacity-building in the domestication of forest products to improve revenue sources. During the workshop on risk management for heritage practitioners organized in cooperation with AWHF (February 2016), 18 heritage practitioners and community members were trained in risk preparedness and resilience building strategies at World Heritage sites in Africa.
- 15. Significant progress has been made with regard to a capacity development project for World Heritage site managers and other tourism stakeholders in four Africa Nature sites. Based on a toolkit specifically oriented towards development of sustainable tourism strategy at World Heritage sites, a series of three workshops were completed in: Mosi-oa-Tunya/Victoria Falls (Zambia and Zimbabwe), Maloti-Drakensberg Park (South Africa and Lesotho) and Lake Malawi National Park (Malawi). Despite the difficulty of getting strong buy-in from the different stakeholders, the project resulted in a development of draft sustainable tourism strategies for the above mentioned sites. The project is funded by the Government of Flanders (Belgium). The African World Heritage Fund was the implementing partner for this project with the support of the UNESCO office in Harare. The World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Programme provided technical support to a capacity building project in South-East Asia, funded under the Malaysian Funds-in-Trust and implemented by UNESCO Jakarta Office. The project focuses on three sites in the region: Melaka and George Town, Historic Cities of the Straits of Malacca (Malaysia), Cultural Landscape of Bali Province: the

Subak System as a Manifestation of the Tri Hita Karana Philosophy (Indonesia) and the Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines). Through a series of capacity building workshops, site managers are developing sustainable tourism strategies for the above mentioned sites based on the UNESCO toolkit. Upon successful implementation of the programme, these three pilot sites will be used as case studies and good practice models for other sites in South-East Asia region. In close collaboration with the UNWTO and the World Federation of Tourist Guide Associations, a training course “Enhancing Silk Road Interpretation and Quality Guides Training” has been organized in Khiva, Republic of Uzbekistan (August 2015). The training certified 26 tourist guides from 5 participating countries (China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) who thus became heritage guide trainers in their own countries. Overall this project raised the professional capacity in guiding visitors at UNESCO World Heritage sites associated with the Silk Road Heritage Corridors which will provide the highest level of visitor experience through improved site interpretation, raise awareness about conservation issues, and foster the long-term sustainability of these sites. This activity was implemented with the support of the UNESCO Tashkent office.

16. 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 36 countries, and allows for the continuous exchange of information through a web-based platform, newsletters, regional meetings and global site managers conferences (third conference scheduled for August 2016). In 2015, the network has facilitated the exchange of compliance management best practices, the exchange of experts from the Great Barrier Reef and Galapagos National Park in order to develop a surveillance intelligence system in Galapagos Islands, the preparation of more twinning agreements and the development of a Marine World Heritage best practice guide (in English, French and Spanish <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1300/>) that allows site managers to use best practices to strengthen effective management in their own sites.
17. The World Heritage programme for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) has implemented a project “Capacity Building to Support the Conservation of World Heritage Sites and Enhance Sustainable Development of Local Communities in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)” through the Japanese Funds-in-Trust. For the Caribbean SIDS, a results-oriented training course was organized to strengthen professional capacities in preparing nomination dossiers and increase the number and quality of nominations of cultural and natural heritage sites, with a focus on Slave Route Sites of Memory across the Caribbean, as suggested by the World Heritage Committee in 2009. Two national workshops for the Atlantic Ocean SIDS and one sub-regional workshop for the Indian Ocean SIDS were organized to identify and address the specific needs through training sessions. For the Pacific SIDS, national capacity building workshops were organized mainly to support the establishment of Tentative Lists in Polynesia, as well as the Capacity Building for the Safeguarding of Nan Madol in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) though supporting their first nomination file. In total, 11 capacity-building workshops (3 regional and 8 national) were organized in all SIDS regions between 2011 and 2015 in order to build capacity for the conservation and management of heritage, and to address the challenges and a way forward for enhancing its preservation for sustainable development of SIDS. Over 500 people attended the workshops, and 30 SIDS countries benefitted from this project which is 77% of all SIDS Member States of UNESCO.
18. In regard to physical conservation of built heritage including at World Heritage properties, ICCROM continues with its International Course on the Conservation of Stone which took place from April to June last year in partnership with the Getty Conservation Institute. A regional stone course for Latin America, a part of ICCROM’s LATAM programme, was held in October 2015 in Mexico in partnership with the Coordinación Nacional de Conservación del Patrimonio Cultural (CNCPC-INAH), Mexico. Concerning Wood Conservation, the International Course on Wood Conservation Technology took place in Norway from 19 May to 30 June 2016 in partnership with the Norwegian

Directorate of Cultural Heritage, and a regional course on conservation of wooden structures in the Asia and Pacific region was held in September 2015 in partnership with the ACCU Nara Office. Discussions are also underway for an international wood conservation course to be held at the World Heritage property of Kizhi Pogost in the Russian Federation in 2017.

19. ICCROM has also held a series of forums over the past few years in partnership with the Cultural Heritage Administration (CHA) of Korea to better develop issues of heritage conservation in an Asian context, particularly in relation to World Heritage. The December 2015 the forum was entitled: *Adaptability and applicability of Traditional Knowledge Systems in Conservation and Management of Heritage* and was held in Bangkok, Thailand. Previous forums have included *Asian Buddhist Heritage: Conserving the Sacred and Authenticity in an Asian Context*.

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

20. Part II of this document presents activities and recent news and developments regarding the category 2 institutes and centres related to World Heritage, one of the key players for the implementation of the WHCBS.

A. Activities of the category 2 centres

21. As required annually, individual progress reports are prepared by each of the category 2 centres to inform in detail of their activities since the 39th session of the World Heritage Committee (Bonn, 2015). Given the volume of the information, these reports are available on the website of the World Heritage Centre (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/category2centres/>). Among all 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

22. In conformity with the integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 institutes and centres adopted by the 37th General Conference of UNESCO, an evaluation of the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) was carried out in spring 2015. The outcomes of the evaluation were subsequently reported to the 197th session of the UNESCO Executive Board. Overall, the evaluation has found the African World Heritage Fund's activities to be in conformity with the agreement between UNESCO and the Government of South Africa and that the Fund has significantly contributed to achieving the relevant strategic goals of UNESCO. The evaluation noted that the Fund's governance and management structure is sound and that there is great potential in the coming years. The Fund is expected to continue to grow and further strengthen its capacities as an effective partner for the protection and conservation of heritage sites in Africa. The evaluation also provided some recommendations for further improvement. The Executive Board at its 197th session of the decided to approve the renewal of the agreement for a period of six years. The agreement is currently being finalized for signature.
23. Two new agreements have been signed in 2015 to formalize the establishment of the following category 2 centres: the International Training and Research Centre on the Economics of Culture and World Heritage Studies (ITRECH), Turin, Italy, and the Centre on World Natural Heritage Site Management and Training for the Asia-Pacific Region, Dehradun, India. Their establishment was approved respectively by the 36th session and 37th session of the General Conference.
24. Further to its decision not to renew the mandate of the Nordic World Heritage Foundation (NWHF) as a category 2 centre in 2014, Norway explored the creation of a new category 2 centre, in

consultation with other Nordic countries, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies (ICCROM and IUCN) responsible for the capacity building strategy. However, the Ministry of Climate and Environment finally informed the World Heritage Centre by letter of 18 December 2015 that it would be more efficient to continue its cooperation with the Advisory Bodies through a programme agreement on the World Heritage capacity building strategy rather than establishing a new category 2 centre. Information about the World Heritage Leadership programme is included under part I.A.3 of this Document.

25. There are currently four initiatives in the pipeline to create new category 2 centres related to World Heritage:
- Cross-Regional Centre for Cultural Linkages in World Heritage (India);
 - Centre for Human Evolution, Adaptations and Dispersals in South East Asia (Indonesia);
 - Centre for Safeguarding Urban Heritage of the Arab World (Morocco); and
 - Russian R&D Institute of Cultural and Environmental Heritage n.a. Dmitry Likhachev (Russian Federation).

UNESCO has received requests for action from the relevant States Parties. The Director-General has decided to launch feasibility studies for the proposals from India, Morocco and Indonesia, with their outcome to be presented for decision by the General Conference at its 39th session of (November 2017). As for the proposal from the Russian Federation, it is currently being revised towards further alignment with UNESCO's priorities, and will be resubmitted later this year.

26. The number of category 2 centres formally related to World Heritage remains unchanged from last year so far: Eight fully affiliated to the Culture Sector, plus 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 within UNESCO.

C. Coordination

27. The Conventions Common Services Unit organized on 14 December 2015, at UNESCO Headquarters, the first Coordination Meeting of category 2 institutes and centres and UNESCO Chairs/UNITWIN Networks related to culture. More than 60 representatives of category 2 centers and UNESCO Chairs/UNITWIN Networks from 31 countries from different regions attended the meeting. The first part of the session was devoted to presenting the UNESCO strategy 2014-2021 and the role of Culture in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, as well as emerging priorities such as protection of cultural heritage in the case of conflicts and disasters. The evaluation and renewal processes for category 2 centers and UNESCO Chairs/UNITWIN Networks were also presented. In the second part, two panel sessions were dedicated to the following themes: "Creating bonds and networks for increasing effective collaboration" and "Leveraging the contribution of the category 2 institutes and centres and UNESCO Chairs/UNITWIN Networks to UNESCO's culture programme". The meeting provided a valuable opportunity for the participants and UNESCO to connect and share experience and knowledge. The participants' feedback was positive, stressing the need to improve coordination and networking. The University of Valencia, in collaboration with the Institute for African Culture and International Understanding (IACIU), committed to host a platform for an online newsletter to strengthen bonds and increase joint programmes and projects among the category 2 centres and Chairs.
28. As to the annual coordination meeting of the category 2 centres related to World Heritage, no meeting took place in 2015 due to lack of proposals from the centres to host such a meeting. The Centre on World Natural Heritage Site Management and Training for the Asia-Pacific region, Wildlife Institute of India, in Dehradun, India proposed to host the next coordination meeting at the end of October 2016.

D. Application of the new integrated comprehensive strategy for category 2 centres

29. Evaluations of all category 2 centres related to World Heritage are progressively being undertaken to bring them into conformity with the new strategy. Up to now, 2 centres (World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific region (WHITR-AP) in China and African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) in South Africa) have undergone the review and the renewal of their status as UNESCO category 2 centre that was approved by the UNESCO Executive Board. The evaluations of two other centres (Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage in Bahrain and Regional Heritage Management Training Centre "Lucio Costa" in Brazil) are scheduled to take place during 2016-2017. Thus far, the only centre without a signed agreement is the International Centre for Rock Art and the World Heritage Convention in Spain, but negotiations are currently under way with the Spanish authorities.

III. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision 40 COM 6

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/6,*
2. *Recalling Decisions **36 COM 6, 36 COM 9B, 37 COM 5E, 37 COM 6, 38 COM 6** as well as **39 COM 6** adopted at its 36th (St Petersburg, 2012), 37th (Phnom Penh, 2013), 38th (Doha, 2014) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) 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 2015 and in the beginning of 2016;*
4. *Notes with appreciation the continued support of the Government of Switzerland in the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Programme;*
5. *Welcomes the initiative by the Government of Norway in collaboration with ICCROM and IUCN to develop a medium term, six-year programme for capacity building, "World Heritage Leadership";*
6. *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;*
7. *Takes note of the development of the regional capacity-building strategies and initiatives, and calls upon States Parties and all concerned partners and stakeholders to follow-up on the implementation of the strategies developed for each region;*
8. *Also welcomes the progress made by all category 2 centres related to World Heritage in implementing their activities and calls on interested stakeholders to support these activities;*
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 41st session in 2017.*