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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

Forty-first session

**Krakow, Poland
2 – 12 July 2017**

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

5C. *World Heritage Convention* and Sustainable Development

SUMMARY

By Decision **40 COM 5C**, the World Heritage Committee welcomed the adoption of the “Policy Document for the integration of a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention” by the 20th General Assembly of States Parties (UNESCO, 2015), and requested the World Heritage Centre to present a progress report at the 41st session of the Committee in 2017.

This document presents the progress made in implementing the World Heritage Sustainable Development Policy (WH-SDP) since the 40th session of the Committee.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 5C, see Point III.

I. BACKGROUND

1. By Resolution **20 GA 13**, the General Assembly of the States Parties adopted the World Heritage Sustainable Development Policy (WH-SDP) (the text of the Policy can be found at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/20ga/>) and invited the World Heritage Centre and States Parties to continue engagement through an ongoing consultation process involving all stakeholders to enrich it.
2. Further to Decision **39 COM 5D** (Bonn, 2015) and Resolution **20 GA 13**, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies reported to the Committee at its 40th session progress made in initiating the follow-up activities, aiming at ensuring the effective integration of the sustainable development perspective into the implementation processes of the *Convention*.
3. By Decision **40 COM 5C**, the World Heritage Committee welcomed the adoption of the WH-SDP by the General Assembly reiterated the need to achieve appropriate balance and integration between the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage properties and the pursuit of sustainable development objectives and called upon States Parties to ensure that sustainable development principles are mainstreamed into their national processes related to World Heritage, in full respect of the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage properties.
4. Furthermore, the scoping study concerning the Policy Guidelines that was examined at the 40th session (see Document WHC/16/40.COM/12 and Decision 40 COM 12) stated that the WH-SDP “represents an innovative and powerful approach, which more strongly than any other brings externally made policy into the World Heritage Convention. It provides only the briefest summary of policy from other parts of the UN, and yet brings the Convention into congruence with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, and very importantly, this policy touches on issues of human rights, gender equality, community involvement, and the involvement of indigenous peoples”.

II. PROGRESS ACHIEVED

5. A process-based approach has been applied in implementing the WH-SDP through gradual integration of a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the *Convention*. At the same time synergies with the States Parties’ engagement and efforts towards achieving the 2030 Agenda are harnessed. These efforts build on UNESCO’s and the Advisory Bodies’ broad contribution to the 2030 Agenda.
6. An expert workshop entitled “World Heritage and Sustainable Development – From Policy to Action” (Vilm, Germany, November 2016), organised jointly by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) with its International Academy for Nature Conservation, IUCN, ICCROM and ICOMOS, in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre, gathered around 30 natural and cultural heritage experts, with a diversity of roles and experiences within the *Convention*. To operationalize the WH-SDP into the processes of the World Heritage Convention, the participants elaborated an action plan, which was produced as an aspirational set of activities and timescales that could become a joint programme, engaging all the stakeholders of the Convention, at international, regional, and local levels; it is structured in 6 areas: 1) Policy and Programme, 2) Revision of the *Operational Guidelines*, 3) Advisory Bodies Work, 4) Advice and Guidance, 5) Capacity Building, and 6) Creating Partnerships. The outcomes of the workshop are available at:

Operational Guidelines

7. In conformity with Resolution **20 GA 13**, relevant changes to the *Operational Guidelines* to translate the principles of the WH-SDP into operational procedures, will be proposed by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in consultation with the States Parties and relevant stakeholders, once a clear framework is established with the adoption of the Policy Guidelines, which are currently under preparation, in accordance with the Committee Decision **40 COM 12**.
8. It is to be noted however, that at its 39th session (Bonn, 2015), the World Heritage Committee has revised the Operational Guidelines and has already included a reference to local communities and indigenous peoples in paragraphs 40 and 123, and in particular to their involvement in the conservation and management of a World Heritage property and in the nomination process.

Periodic Reporting Exercise

9. In view of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting, the Periodic Reporting Reflection Expert Group was tasked to “develop recommendations regarding the integration of the Sustainable Development Approach in line with the World Heritage Sustainable Development Policy and the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, within the framework of the Periodic Reporting “exercise” (the terms of reference were presented to the Committee in document WHC/16/40.COM/10A).
10. Sustainable Development is now one of the pillars of the analytical framework of the Periodic Reporting exercise, and it has been mainstreamed into the revised Sections I and II of the Periodic Reporting questionnaire. Throughout the questionnaire, the objective has been to both acquire measurable data and raise awareness on this topic. Further details are provided in document *WHC/17/41.COM/10A*, which presents the outcomes of the Periodic Reporting Reflection (2015-2017) to the World Heritage Committee at its 41st session.

UNESCO policy on engaging with indigenous peoples

11. In the course of the development of a UNESCO policy on engaging with indigenous peoples, an information meeting for the Permanent Delegates and Observers to UNESCO was held on 2 February 2017 to present the policy’s draft text prior to its examination at the 201st session of the Executive Board (<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002477/247738e.pdf>). The Information meeting also provided an opportunity to highlight the already-existing contributions of the World Heritage Convention to the engagement with indigenous peoples (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/496/>) as well as to the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on the occasion of its 10th anniversary (2007-2017).

World Heritage and rights-based approaches

12. The scoping study concerning the Policy Guidelines that was examined at the 40th session (see Document WHC/16/40.COM/12) questioned whether one or more separate, new policy (or policies) are needed to apply rights-based approaches to conservation, and in particular gender equality, indigenous peoples, and community involvement, or if the existing sustainable development policy is sufficient to meet the

policy needs of the World Heritage System. These issues will be addressed in the process of reflection and work on the Policy Compendium by the Secretariat, Advisory Bodies and the working group of natural and cultural heritage experts and other stakeholders. As per Decision 40COM 12, a report on the outcomes of this work will be presented to the 42nd session of the Committee.

13. The Advisory Bodies are implementing a significant programme related to the role of rights-based approaches within the *World Heritage Convention* initiated by ICOMOS Norway titled 'Our Common Dignity'. With the support of the governments of Norway and South Africa, two pilot training courses on heritage and rights have been conducted: for the Nordic Region (Oslo, March 2016) and for southern Africa (Pretoria, March 2017). Information and capacity building sessions were held at the ICOMOS Advisory Committee meeting (Istanbul, October 2016), and, the theme featured extensively at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Hawai'i (September 2016) and sessions were organized with ICOMOS, ICCROM, IUCN and the World Heritage Centre. The theme will also be advanced at the 19th ICOMOS General Assembly (New Delhi, India, December 2017), particularly through the symposium stream on 'the role of cultural heritage in building peace and reconciliation'. A detailed report on 'Our Common Dignity', summarising Advisory Body project activities (2011-2016) is available and related information is also included in the reports of the Advisory Bodies (*Document WHC/16/40.COM/5B*).
14. The World Heritage Centre participated in the expert consultation on biodiversity and human rights organized by the Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment (Geneva, 20-22 September 2016). Over 30 participants from UN specialized agencies, civil society organizations, as well as academia attended this meeting, which focused on the interlinkages between the environment and human rights in advancing the right to a healthy environment. The Special Rapporteur presented his report to the 34th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in March 2017, urging that States must fulfil human rights obligations in protecting biodiversity (the report is available at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Environment/SREnvironment/Pages/Annualreports.aspx>).

United Nations 2030 Agenda

15. ICOMOS convened an international coordination meeting entitled "Cultural Heritage and Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals" (Istanbul, February 4-5, 2017) with the support of the ICOMOS Turkish National Committee as part of its efforts related to the United Nations Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, in particular the Heritage Target (SDG 11.4) and the New Urban Agenda adopted at Habitat III in October 2016. The meeting gathered key representatives of ICOMOS International Scientific Committees, National Committees and expert members working on sustainable development issues, as well as representatives of key partners of ICOMOS, local officials and selected local stakeholders. The meeting defined ICOMOS' activities in the 2017-18 cycle in relation with the SDGs and a draft ICOMOS Action Plan 'Cultural Heritage and Localizing the SDGs' was drafted. More information on the meeting and related material can be found at: <http://www.icomos.org/en/what-we-do/involvement-in-international-conventions/un-sustainable-development-goals-2>
16. IUCN's overall quadrennial programme was adopted at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in September 2016. All programmatic activity by IUCN is tracked against implementation of the SDGs. The IUCN Programme is available at the following link:

https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/iucn_programme_2017-2020-final_approved.pdf
and IUCN's work on sustainable development more generally is available at this link:
<https://www.iucn.org/theme/global-policy/our-work/sustainable-development>.

17. The ICCROM Programme and Budget for the period 2018-2024 foresees to include a programme on 'Heritage and Sustainable Development' which will focus on a variety of ways to ensure that sustainable development concepts (and the SDGs) are integrated into the larger heritage conservation context and that heritage conservation is integrated into the larger sustainable development context.
18. The World Heritage Centre continues to take part in the meetings of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions through a joint effort to coordinate actions, harmonize practices, and reinforce the links between biological and cultural diversity. The group also follows up on the implementation of decisions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP13, December 2016), including with regard to the 2030 Agenda. More information on this work and synergies with other Conventions is provided in Document WHC/17/41.COM/5A.
19. The World Heritage Centre, through the World Heritage Cities Thematic Programme, takes part in UNESCO's contribution to support Members States' implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: "Make Cities and Human Settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable". In this framework, the UNESCO Global Report on Culture and Sustainable Urban Development was presented to Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), in October 2016 (Quito, Ecuador), and provided a contribution to the common UN action towards the development of the New Urban Agenda and the implementation of SDG 11. The Report has allowed, for the first time to consolidate strategic analyses of the situations, trends, threats and existing opportunities in the different regional contexts in view of fostering the role of culture for sustainable urban development; it proposes a reflection and recommendation on managing change in cities, building on the role of cultural heritage as a lever for sustainable development, with the aim to support communities, planners and legislators involved in conservation policies and heritage focused urban development. The UNESCO Global Report on Culture and Sustainable Urban Development is available at <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/culture/themes/culture-and-development/culture-for-sustainable-urban-development/>

Development of indicators

20. In the framework of the UN Statistical Commission's work to monitor the 2030 Agenda the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) has been entrusted with the follow-up of indicator 11.4.1: "Total expenditure (public and private) per capita spent on the preservation, protection and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by type of heritage (cultural, natural, mixed, World Heritage sites), level of government (national, regional, and local/municipal), type of expenditure (operating expenditure/investment) and type of private funding (donations in kind, private non-profit sector, sponsorship)." Although this indicator is intended to cover all natural and cultural heritage, it is suggested that it include data related to World Heritage statistics.
21. UIS convened an Expert Group on Heritage Statistics (UNESCO, September 2016) to launch the development of a data collection instrument for global cultural heritage statistics, and seek to develop the necessary methodology. The meeting was attended by 16 designated experts from national statistical offices, regional and international

partner agencies, and UNESCO; it examined current and emerging global priorities in the measurement of cultural and natural heritage, the current state of heritage statistics globally, the SDG indicator 11.4.1, including methodological issues, and made initial recommendations for a global data collection. All three Advisory Bodies, IUCN, ICOMOS, and ICCROM are interested to assist this process, and to develop further shadow indicators that can assist in the effective monitoring of Target 11.4.

Capacity Building

22. The World Heritage Leadership Programme, coordinated by ICCROM and IUCN, includes a focus on capacity building for sustainable development as an integral part of World Heritage Site management. This programme is reported on under item 6 of the Committee's agenda. IUCN, with the support of the German Nature Conservation Agency, BfN, is also undertaking a capacity building project on the use of ecosystem services in the management of World Heritage Sites, and can provide further information on this request.
23. The World Heritage Centre's Latin America and the Caribbean Unit organized three capacity-building activities with a focus on the linkages between the WH-SDP, the concrete conservation and management needs of the State Parties and the SDGs, in particular SDGs 1, 11, 13, 15 and 17 (two workshops on the fundamental notions of the 1972 Convention), in October 2016 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, by the Category 2 Centre Lucio Costa on Heritage Management Training (C2C-LCC) in close cooperation with the Advisory Bodies, and in November 2016 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, by the National Trust in collaboration with the UNESCO Offices in Havana and Kingston, with some 60 participants from the Caribbean; and one workshop on World Heritage and Climate Change, organized in May 2017, in Kingston, Jamaica, by the UNESCO Kingston Office with approximately 60 participants mainly from the Caribbean countries.

Operational and Field Activities

24. The need to carry out research using clear indicators on the most effective means to articulate the three dimensions of sustainable development (environmental sustainability, inclusive social and economic development) while fostering peace and security is considered essential. For this reason, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies are also engaged in several field activities that address this issue.
25. In Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) substantial efforts have been made in recent years through the implementation of a new private-public partnership management model. This innovative and environmentally sound approach aims to balance conservation and development through four pillar resources: hydropower, the agro-industry, fisheries and tourism. The actions carried out have improved significantly the living conditions of the communities and the environment around the site while contributing to its sustainable conservation. Among the results are the increasing number of mountain gorillas and their habitats, the stabilization of large fauna, the increase in troupe surveillance, and reduced activities of armed groups.
26. The rehabilitation of World Heritage site in Timbuktu (Mali) highlights the successful integration of heritage conservation into peacebuilding efforts. The success of this ongoing project is due in large part to the mobilization of local communities to lead all the operations of emergency backup and reconstruction. Over generations, these communities have preserved unique ancestral know-how and traditions, which made

possible the reconstruction of the 14 mausoleums of saints, the rehabilitation of mosques and libraries, including the conservation of ancient manuscripts. The project showed that emphasis on culture heritage is essential for national reconciliation efforts. The international attention focused on Mali's heritage has also contributed to the successful outcome of the International Criminal Court's first trial on the willful destruction of cultural heritage in 2016.

27. In partnership with the UNDP Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme, the World Heritage Centre continues its long-standing efforts to engage local communities in stewardship of World Heritage through the community conservation programmes (COMPACT), with one recently completed project at the W National Park (Niger), and two ongoing projects, including the Maloti-Drakensberg Park (Lesotho/South Africa).
28. The UNESCO/Japan FiT project 'Strengthening the Conservation and Management of Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha, World Heritage Property' (Nepal) was launched in 2011 to support the conservation and management of the property. To address the growing number of development projects that threaten the property and its surroundings, a second phase of the project was launched (2014–2017), with the overall objective of enabling the national authorities to take a proactive and sustainable approach to protecting and managing the World Heritage property while safeguarding the cultural assets of the greater Lumbini area, in particular of Ramagrama and Tilaurakot. The project also encourages the State Party to adopt a holistic approach that links preservation imperatives with development requirements.
29. Since May 2014, the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the UNESCO Offices in Dhaka and Islamabad, in co-operation with the relevant authorities in Bangladesh and Pakistan as well as NGOs is implementing the UNESCO/Republic of Korea FiT project 'World Heritage, Sustainable Development and Community Involvement'. This project showcases the importance of fostering a close link between local communities and their World Heritage properties in order to reinforce the site's protection and sustainability. It involves local communities in Bangladesh and Pakistan and aims to revitalize income-generating crafts related to the conservation of World Heritage; it focuses on different crafts at three World Heritage properties: the 'Ruins of the Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur' (Bangladesh) for terracotta plaques production, the 'Historical Monuments at Makli, Thatta' (Pakistan) for glazed tiles, and the 'Fort and Shalamar Gardens of Lahore' (Pakistan) as well as other historic monuments of the Mughal period for various traditional building crafts, including fresco and stone carving. Outreach programmes were carried out to ensure the involvement of women and children, especially for the Makli component, where underprivileged local residents were provided training in several crafts, including tile making, thereby reinforcing their link to the World Heritage property.
30. "The second phase of the Pilot Upstream process "Natural and Cultural Heritage of the Ohrid region" (Albania / former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), launched in September 2014 in support to the extension of this mixed World Heritage property located in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the Albanian part of the Lake Ohrid region, integrates a sustainable development perspective in all project activities, in particular with regards to the establishment of an integrated and collaborative management system for the entire Lake Ohrid region. A Draft Strategy Document for Sustainable Development opportunities for the Albanian part of the Lake Ohrid region has been elaborated in English and in Albanian, taking into account the WH-SDP, through a wide consultation process among the local, regional and national stakeholders. In addition, a number of capacity-building activities promote an on-site

heritage-friendly sustainable development approach i.e. workshops and trainings held in Pogradec, Albania in October 2016 and April 2017.

Awareness-raising, dissemination and communication

31. The Arusha Conference on the "Safeguarding African World Heritage as a Driver of Sustainable Development" (Tanzania, 31 May to 3 June 2016) issued the Ngorongoro Declaration which highlights the importance of carrying out research on the most effective means to strengthen, throughout Africa, the three dimensions of sustainable development: environmental sustainability, inclusive social and economic development while also fostering peace and security. The Conference has triggered a number of projects on issues related to heritage conservation and community development, youth capacity-building through heritage education and related activities. These pilot case projects are designed to strike a balance between development, sustainability and conservation, in line with the SDGs:
<http://www.unesco.org/culture/flipbook/africa/#p=32>
and <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/1506>
32. The World Heritage Centre has requested from the UNESCO Category II Centres working in the area of World Heritage to translate the WH-SDP into other languages and disseminate it among their networks.
33. In recent State of Conservation reports, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies observed a trend whereby States Parties pursued local social and/or economic development initiatives at the expense of environmental sustainability. Achieving the right balance between environmental, social and economic sustainability, while fully respecting and protecting the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage properties is a difficult but crucial endeavour which will require increased awareness raising and dialogue with States Parties.

Planned Actions

34. Following the concrete and operational outcomes of the workshop "World Heritage and Sustainable Development – From Policy to Action" (Vilm, Germany, November 2016), the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies plan to establish a peer group with a view to assist in follow up and support to the implementation of the WH-SD Policy, building on the Workshop's action plan. The group will address ways to achieve the right balance between environmental, social and economic sustainability, while fully respecting and protecting the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage properties.
35. The World Heritage Centre aims to develop its website dedicated to the WH-SDP (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/sustainabledevelopment/>) into a resource platform to assist States Parties and practitioners in implementation of the policy.
36. In the framework of its work on the implementation of the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda, UNESCO' has developed a draft Framework for Measuring the Impact of Culture on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); an international expert meeting is planned at the UNESCO Headquarters on 26-27 June 2017 to discuss this framework. It will address the contribution of culture at large, including cultural heritage, to inclusive economic, social and environmental development, the contribution of culture to Goal 11 and the New Urban Agenda, national and local means of measurement and data sources.

37. In the current context of rapidly evolving demographics and climate change, increasing inequalities and other threats to heritage (e.g. armed conflict, poaching, uncontrolled urban expansion and mineral and oil exploitation) and diminishing natural resources, there is clearly a need to harmonize development, sustainability and conservation, with an emphasis on realizing the enormous potential of youth. In the context of Africa's economic development, the World Heritage Centre's Africa Unit envisages to elaborate a project to reinforce the capacities of Africa's youth in the field of heritage to boost poverty reduction and social cohesion.

III. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision: 41 COM 5C

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/16/40.COM/5C,
2. Recalling Decisions **36 COM 5C**, **38 COM 5D**, and **39 COM 5D**, and **40 COM 5C**, adopted respectively at its 36th (Saint Petersburg, 2012), 38th (Doha, 2014) and 39th (Bonn, 2015) and 40th (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) sessions, as well as Resolution **20 GA 13**, adopted by the General Assembly at its 20th session (UNESCO, 2015),
3. Welcomes the follow-up activities and the progress made by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies in disseminating the “Policy Document for the integration of a sustainable development perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention” and mainstreaming it into statutory processes, international policies and operational activities through a concrete programme of action, and requests that this effort be pursued;
4. Reiterates the need to achieve appropriate balance and integration between the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage properties and the pursuit of sustainable development objectives;
5. Takes note of the support provided by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies to Members States in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and of the further work anticipated on developing indicators in this regard;
6. Calls upon States Parties to ensure that sustainable development principles are mainstreamed into their national processes related to World Heritage, in full respect of the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage properties;
7. Further calls on States Parties to support capacity-building programmes and activities aimed at providing methodologies and tools for integrating heritage conservation into sustainable development frameworks and mainstreaming the Sustainable Development approach in conservation and management activities;
8. Decides to inscribe an agenda item concerning World Heritage and Sustainable Development at its 43rd session in 2019 and also requests the World Heritage Centre, in cooperation with the Advisory Bodies, to present a progress report in this regard.