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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

5A: Report of the World Heritage Centre on its activities and the implementation of the World Heritage Committee's Decisions

INF.5A: Draft Report of the World Heritage Committee on its activities for the 21st session of the General Assembly of States Parties (UNESCO, 2017)

SUMMARY

This document provides the Committee with the draft report to be presented to the 21st session of the General Assembly and to the 39th session of the General Conference, as per Article 29.3 of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. The report contains information concerning the main activities and decisions taken by the World Heritage Committee since the 20th session of the General Assembly of States Parties held on 18 – 20 November 2015.

The report will be included as one of the "statutory reports of UNESCO's intergovernmental committees and councils submitted to the General Conference, and the reports of governmental, regional and international conferences" (39 C/REP/19). It will not require a decision on the part of the General Conference.

This document cancels and replaces the previous one

I. Overview and structure of this document

1. This document is intended to provide the UNESCO General Conference with information regarding the main activities and decisions taken by the World Heritage Committee since the 20th General Assembly of States Parties (18-20 November 2015) in the implementation of the *Convention*.
2. In order to better present the varied information contained in this document, the main activities and decisions of the World Heritage Committee have been grouped according to its Strategic Objectives. The Strategic Objectives, adopted by the Committee at its 26th session (Budapest, 2002), are the following:
 - a) Strengthen the **Credibility** of the World Heritage List
 - b) Ensure the effective **Conservation** of the World Heritage properties
 - c) Promote the development of effective **Capacity-building** measures in States Parties
 - d) Increase public awareness, involvement and support for World Heritage through **Communication**¹.
3. To the 4 Strategic Objectives mentioned above (also called “4 Cs”), the Committee, at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007), decided to add a “Fifth C” for “**Communities**” which reads as follows: “To enhance the role of communities in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*” (Decision **31 COM 13B**).

II. Background information

A. Number of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention*

4. As of May 2017, there are 193 States Parties to the *Convention*². Since the 20th General Assembly in 2015, South Sudan and Timor-Leste have ratified the *Convention* respectively in March and October 2016.

B. Current Members of the World Heritage Committee and Bureau

5. **21 members:** Angola, Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Croatia, Cuba, Finland, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Tunisia, Turkey, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe.

Their terms of office are:

Until the **end of the 39th session of the General Conference** (2017): Croatia, Finland, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Turkey, Viet Nam.

Until the **end of the 40th session of the General Conference** (2019): Angola, Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Cuba, Indonesia, Kuwait, Tunisia, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe.

¹ See Decision **26 COM 17.1** (Budapest, 2002).

² The list of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* is available at the following web address:
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/>

Composition of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee since July 2015

JULY 2015-JULY 2016	JULY 2016-JULY 2017	JULY 2017
Chairperson: H.E Ambassador Ms Lale ÜLKER, Turkey	Chairperson: H.E Professor Jacek PURCHLA, Poland	The Committee at its 41 st session decided to hold its 12th Extraordinary session during the 21st session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention in November 2017 and also decided to prolong the mandate of its Bureau until its 12th Extraordinary session.
Rapporteur: Ms Eugene Jo, Republic of Korea	Rapporteur: Mr. Muhammad Juma, United Republic of Tanzania	
Lebanon	Angola	
Peru	Kuwait	
Philippines	Portugal	
Poland	Peru	
United Republic of Tanzania	Republic of Korea	

C. World Heritage Statutory Meetings since the 20th General Assembly (2015)

SESSION	VENUE	DATES	DOCUMENTS PREPARED
40th session of the World Heritage Committee (40 COM)	Istanbul/UNESCO	July/October 2016	32 working documents/ 15 information documents (WHC/16/40.COM)
41st session of the World Heritage Committee (41 COM)	Krakow, Poland	2 – 12 July 2017	32 working documents/ 15 information documents (WHC/17/41.COM)
TOTAL 64 working documents/ 30 information documents, 94 documents in total			

D. Strengthening the credibility of the World Heritage List

Nominations to the World Heritage List

Inscription of properties on the World Heritage List since the 20th General Assembly (2015).

Region	New cultural properties	New natural properties	New mixed properties	Total
Africa	3	0	1	4
Arab States	1	1	1	3
Asia/Pacific	9	5	1	15
Europe/North America	14	1	0	15
Latin America/Caribbean	3	2	0	5
TOTAL	30	9	3	42

6. The total number of properties on the World Heritage List as of July 2017 is 1073 (832 cultural, 206 natural and 35 mixed)³. These properties are located in 167 States Parties (i.e. 26 States Parties have no property inscribed on the World Heritage List). 176 States Parties have submitted Tentative Lists of properties they may decide to nominate in future years.

Inscription of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger since the 20th General Assembly (2015)

Committee Session	Number of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger	Number of properties removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger
40 COM (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016)	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Towns of Djenné (Mali) • Historic Centre of Shakhrisyabz (Uzbekistan) • Archaeological Site of Cyrene (Libya) • Archaeological Site of Leptis Magna (Libya) • Archaeological Site of Sabratha (Libya) • Old Town of Ghadamès (Libya) • Rock-Art Sites of Tadrart Acacus (Libya) • Nan Madol: Ceremonial Centre of Eastern Micronesia (Federated States of Micronesia) 	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Monuments of Mtskheta (Georgia)
41 COM (Krakow, 2017)	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic Centre of Vienna (Austria) • Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town (Palestine) 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comoé National Park (Côte d'Ivoire) • Simien National Park (Ethiopia) • Gelati Monastery (Georgia)

³ The World Heritage List is available on the web at the following address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/>

7. The total number of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger as of July 2017 is **54 (38 cultural and 16 natural)**.⁴

Deletion of properties from the World Heritage List

8. None since 2009.

Global strategy for a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List

9. International, inter-regional and regional meetings and workshops have been organized for the implementation of the Global Strategy. Details of all these activities have been included in document WHC/17/41.COM/5A.

E. Ensuring the effective conservation of World Heritage properties

State of conservation reports of World Heritage properties examined by the Committee since the 20th General Assembly (2015)

40 COM	LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER	WORLD HERITAGE LIST
Africa	16	20
Arab States	16	11
Asia/Pacific	4	26
Europe/North America	5	32
Latin America/Caribbean	7	19
TOTAL (156)	48	108
41 COM	LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER	WORLD HERITAGE LIST
Africa	17	15
Arab States	21	14
Asia/Pacific	6	24
Europe/North America	4	28
Latin America/Caribbean	7	18
TOTAL (154)	55	99

⁴ The list of World Heritage in Danger is available on the web at the following address:
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/danger/>

Approved International Assistance (IA) from the World Heritage Fund since the 20th General Assembly (2015) as of May 2017

REGIONS	NUMBER OF STATES PARTIES TO REQUEST IA	NUMBER OF REQUESTS	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROVED (in USD)
Africa	11	14	346,551
Arab States	2	3	135,000
Asia/Pacific	2	2	59,000
Europe/North America	4	7	111,954
Latin America/Caribbean	3	3	117,172
TOTAL	22	29	769,677

Periodic Reporting

10. The Progress report on the Periodic Reporting Reflection (2015-2017) as well as the follow-up to the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for all regions were presented to the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016).
11. The Report on the Periodic Reporting Reflection (2015-2017) and launch of the third cycle as well as the follow-up to the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for all regions has been presented to the 41st session of the Committee.

Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism

12. As per Decision **31 COM 5.2**, the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism is a constant cooperative process with the State Party concerned. At its 40th session (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) and 41st session (Krakow, 2017), the Committee decided to continue to apply the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism to the following properties:
 - Manovo-Gounda Saint-Floris (Central African Republic)
 - Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
 - Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
 - Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
 - Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
 - Okapi Wildlife Reserve (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
 - Timbuktu (Mali)
 - Tomb of Askia (Mali)
 - Temple of Preah Vihear (Cambodia)
 - Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan)
 - Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Serbia)

International Conferences and Symposiums

13. A number of international conferences and symposiums focused on various World Heritage issues were organized by the World Heritage Centre or with the Centre's assistance. Inventories of these activities are included in documents WHC/16/40.COM/5A and WHC/17/41.COM/5A.

F. Promoting the development of effective capacity-building in States Parties

Capacity-building Strategy

14. Over the past biennium, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in close cooperation with States Parties and relevant category 2 centres, have undertaken a number of activities which contributed directly to the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity-Building Strategy (WHCBS), adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session (Paris, 2011). These included programmes aimed at strengthening regional and national institutions responsible for heritage protection, training initiatives targeting professionals and youth and the development of new guidance materials.

Education activities

15. A number of international and regional World Heritage Youth Fora were organized by the World Heritage Centre or with the Centre's assistance to develop educational activities related to World Heritage. This includes the *World Heritage Youth Forum 2016* intitulé "*At the Crossroads of Multi-Layered Heritage*" held from 29 June to 12 July 2016 in Istanbul (Turkey) in conjunction with the 40th Session of the World Heritage Committee, as well as the World Heritage Young Professionals Forum 2017 devoted to "Memory: Lost and Recovered Heritage" organized in conjunction with the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee. Furthermore, the Caribbean World Heritage Youth Project on Marine Biodiversity and Climate Change took place in Panama in January 2016; the first Anglophone African World Heritage Regional Youth Forum: *Increasing youth involvement in the promotion and protection of African World Heritage* was held in Robben Island in South Africa in April-May 2016 and the first Francophone African World Heritage Youth Forum was held April-May 2017 in Burkina Faso.
16. The World Heritage Volunteers 2016 and 2017 campaigns carried out numerous camps on several World Heritage properties and sites on the Tentative Lists around the world involving a large participation of local organizations and mobilizing youth to preserve and promote World Heritage by reaching out to their peers and communities.
17. A detailed inventory of the activities mentioned above is included in documents WHC/16/40.COM/5A and WHC/17/41.COM/5A.

G. Increasing public awareness, involvement and support for World Heritage through communication

Awareness-raising

18. In 2016, the World Heritage website (<http://whc.unesco.org>) received an average of 36,446 visits per day. Traffic to the World Heritage website has increased by 5%, from 12,623,553 visits in 2014 to 13,339,480 in 2016. The visits to the World Heritage website represent 40% of the total visits to the UNESCO webpage, demonstrating high global interest in World Heritage.
19. 5 e-newsletters “World Heritage Information” were sent in 2016 and 2017 in French and English to 21,600 World Heritage Centre website members.
20. Articles and interviews on World Heritage have been published in response to requests by numerous national and international well-known media.

Publications

21. In 2015-2016, 100,000 **World Heritage Maps** were produced and disseminated in English, French and Spanish in partnership with Turkey and National Geographic. The Korean version was prepared (80,000 copies) by the Korean National Commission. In 2016-2017, 70,000 copies were produced in partnership with Poland and National Geographic. The Korean version was prepared (80,000 copies) by the Korean National Commission.
22. Five new publications were issued in the **World Heritage Papers Series**:
 - N°41. Human Origin Sites and the World Heritage Convention in Eurasia (HEADS 4)
 - N°42. Human Origin Sites and the World Heritage Convention in the Americas (HEADS 5)
 - N°43. Understanding World Heritage in Europe and North America - Final Report on the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting, 2012-2015
 - N°44. World Heritage in the High Seas: An Idea Whose Time Has Come
 - N°45. The Future of the World Heritage Convention for Marine Conservation. Celebrating 10 years of the World Heritage Marine Programme
23. Six issues of the quarterly magazine **World Heritage** (issues 78 to 83) were published between February 2016 and April 2017. The Review exists also as an i-app for iPad, Android and Kindle Fire tablets.
24. The **World Heritage Resource Manual Series** continues with translations in Arabic, Portuguese, Polish, Chinese and German in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies. Translations have been supported by the National Institute of Historic and Artistic Heritage (IPHAN), Brazil, the National Heritage Board of Poland, ICOMOS China, the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of China, the China State Administration of Cultural Heritage, the German National Commission for UNESCO, ICCROM-ATHAR, and the category 2 centres in Bahrein (ARC-WH) and Brazil (Centro Lúcio Costa).

Bilateral Agreements with States Parties and Partnerships

25. In 2016-2017, bilateral agreements were concluded or continued with 17 States Parties and the European Commission.
26. In the period of 2015-2017, the World Heritage Centre has established and/or extended **17 partnerships with private sector companies, foundations, and NGOs**, all of which are managed in close consultation with UNESCO's Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP). Inventories of on-going and envisaged partnerships with the private sector and foundations were presented to the Committee in documents WHC-16/40.COM/5A and WHC-17/41.COM/5A.