



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

World Heritage

41 COM

WHC/17/41.COM/13

Paris, 2 June 2017

Original: English

**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 13 of the Provisional Agenda: International Assistance

13. Examination of International Assistance requests

SUMMARY

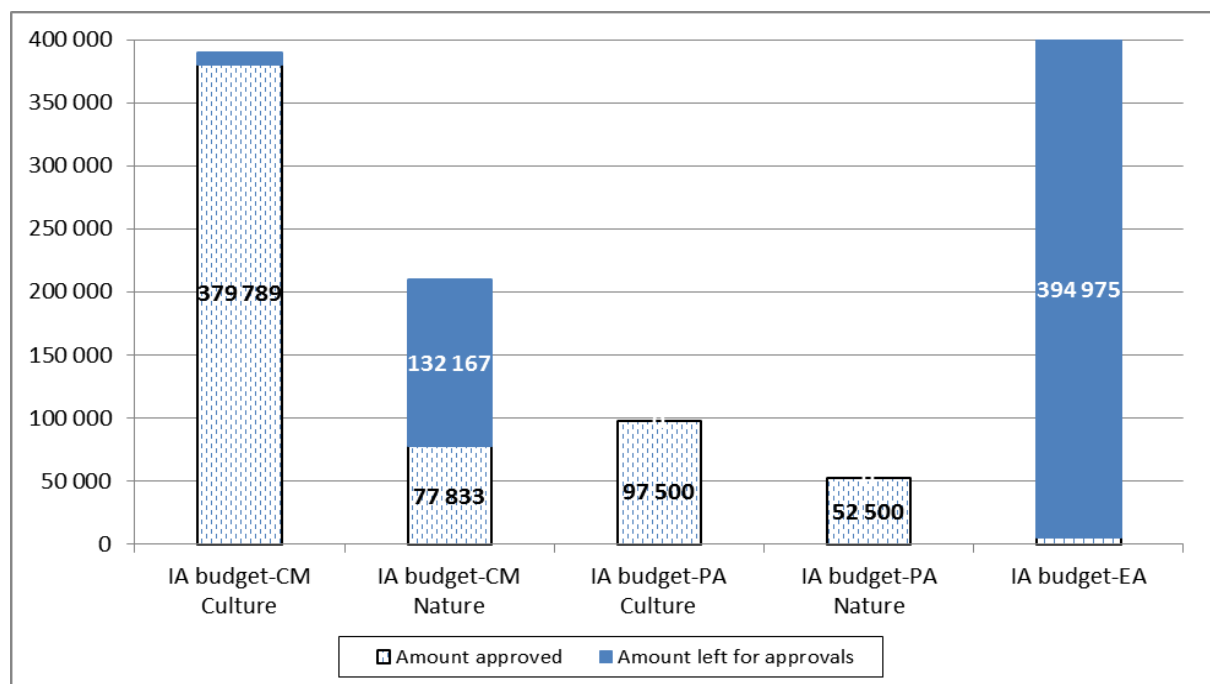
This document comprises four parts: Part I contains the status of the International Assistance budget for the biennium 2016-2017 as of 31 May 2017; Part II, an update on the International Assistance "MarketPlace"; Part III, a short overview of the links between Preparatory assistance and Upstream process; and Part IV, a brief note about the recommendation by the Internal Oversight Service on the International Assistance process.

The present document contains also an Annex providing the list of International Assistance requests approved for the biennium 2016-2017 as of 31 May 2017.

Draft Decision: 41 COM 13, see Point V.

I. STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 2016-2017 AS OF 31 MAY 2017

- The International Assistance budget approved for the biennium 2016-2017 by Decision **39 COM 15** is as follows: US\$ 150,000 for Preparatory Assistance (instead of US\$ 120,000 in 2014-2015), US\$ 600,000 for Conservation & Management Assistance (instead of US\$ 330,000 in 2014-2015), and US\$ 400,000 for Emergency Assistance (the same as in 2014-2015). The overall budget for International Assistance is therefore higher by 66.6% compared with the approved budget for 2014-2015. Nonetheless, despite the effort made to increase the International Assistance budget, it is worth noting that it represents only 50% of what it was 10 years ago (US\$ 0.75 million in 2016-2017 against US\$ 1.5 million in 2006-2007), whereas the number of inscribed World Heritage properties has increased by 26.7% during this same period.
- As can be seen from the chart below, as of 31 May 2017, the 2016-2017 International Assistance budget for Preparatory Assistance has been fully used or earmarked for requests recommended for approval. It should also be pointed out that the budget of US\$ 600,000 for Conservation & Management assistance would have been normally exhausted if the 20 requests submitted for approval had been for US\$ 30,000 each. However, this biennium, the average amount of requests under Conservation & Management was around US\$ 22,880. Therefore, the budget Conservation & Management-Nature has not been used to its fullest extent, this being also partly due to a lower number of requests for natural heritage, while the budget for Conservation & Management-Culture is practically exhausted.



Figures in US dollars.

PA = Preparatory Assistance; CM = Conservation & Management assistance; EA = Emergency assistance

- Since 2008, contributions from Italy, India, private partnerships, the Republic of Korea, Finland, the Philippines, Turkey and Germany have been received under the World Heritage Fund for a total amount of **US\$ 877,077** (without support costs) to contribute towards funding of International Assistance requests, in case the International Assistance budget is insufficient. Currently, only **2.5%** of these funds are still available.

4. From 2010 to 2015, these additional funds made it possible to approve 32 additional requests; the average amount approved under additional contributions was **US\$ 265,567 per biennium**¹. This clearly shows that voluntary contributions dedicated to International Assistance have been crucial. The Committee, by Decision **40 COM 14**, paragraph 6, has strongly appealed to all States Parties to contribute for International Assistance by choosing among the options described in Resolution **19 GA 8**. It may wish to reiterate this appeal.

II. “MARKETPLACE” FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

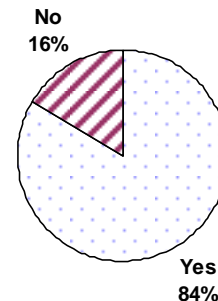
5. Due to the low level of funding available for International Assistance over the past biennia, a number of projects have been recommended for approval in 2014-2015 but could not be funded. Therefore, the World Heritage Centre decided to present such non-funded proposals, which had already been reviewed and recommended for approval by the International Assistance (IA) panel, to potential donors through a dedicated “Marketplace” web page. It was hoped that presenting “ready-made” projects which had already been recommended for approval by the IA panel, in line with the requirements and principles of the World Heritage Convention, would allow to attract necessary funds and thus, contribute ultimately towards providing enhanced assistance to eligible States Parties. This web page was set up in June 2016, keeping also in mind the discussions of the ad hoc working group about the need of attracting new donors for World Heritage without duplicating existing mechanisms and modalities.
6. The “Marketplace” webpage was presented to the World Heritage Committee in October 2016 during the continuation of the 40th session, when the item on International Assistance was examined. It gathered positive feedback from Committee members. At that time, the “Marketplace” featured 4 requests: 2 for Conservation & Management assistance (from Chile and Albania), and 2 for Preparatory Assistance (from Mongolia and Barbados). It also showcased projects that had been successfully implemented in the recent years.
7. It was intended to publicize the “IA Marketplace” and its content towards the States Parties to the Convention and other potential donors after the Committee session. But even before any official announcement could be made, three of the projects found donors, namely the Netherlands Funds-in-Trust for the request from Mongolia; the Deutsche Welterbe Stiftung (German World Heritage Foundation) for the request from Chile; and Japan for Barbados via the Japanese Funds-in-Trust dedicated to the Preservation of the World Cultural Heritage.
8. Thanks to its rapid success, the “IA Marketplace” is now practically empty. If next biennium new requests would need again to be proposed for funding, States Parties to the Convention and other potential donors would be informed via a circular letter and other suitable means. In the meantime, and following discussions held at the ad hoc working group, the successful concept of the “IA Marketplace” has been extended to other projects in the form of a “Donors Forum” webpage (for more details, see document WHC/17/41.COM/14).

¹ Namely US\$ 235,994 in 2010-2011; US\$ 241,402 in 2012-2013; and US\$ 319,907 in 2014-2015.

III. PREPARATORY ASSISTANCE AND UPSTREAM PROCESS

9. In order to collect feedback from States Parties on the wider issues with the implementation of the Upstream Process, a reflection survey was prepared by the World Heritage Centre in consultation with the Advisory Bodies (see document WHC/17/41.COM/9A). In this survey, the following question concerned more specifically Preparatory Assistance:

Question 6: *Do you consider that, under the mechanism of the Preparatory Assistance within World Heritage International Assistance, priority should be given to Preparatory Assistance requests involving upstream support, thus ensuring a more efficient use of the assistance provided?*



10. The large majority (84%) of respondents considered that, under the mechanism of the Preparatory Assistance, priority should be given to requests involving upstream support. This opinion is fully in line with Recommendation n°7 of the External Auditor in the Evaluation of the Global Strategy in 2011 which was to “condition the granting of Preparatory Assistance destined for the establishment of tentative lists on the commitment to (...) participate in the experimental « Upstream » process aiming at evaluating potential outstanding universal value prior to the preparation of a nomination file” – see document WHC-11/18.GA/8.
11. The Operational Guidelines, in line with Article 13.2 of the World Heritage Convention², already include since 2012 in paragraph 241 a priority for requests involving advice at an early stage in the nomination process, namely for “sites recognized in approved thematic advice as corresponding to gaps on the List and/or for sites where preliminary investigations have shown that further inquiries would be justified, especially in the case of States Parties whose heritage is un-represented or under-represented on the World Heritage List.”
12. While it could be considered that the priority for “upstream” projects is implicitly included in the paragraph 241 referred to above, the Committee may wish to make a more explicit reference to upstream in this text during the next revision of the Operational Guidelines.

IV. RECOMMENDATION BY THE INTERNAL OVERSIGHT SERVICE’ COMPARATIVE MAPPING STUDY WITH REGARD TO THE INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROCESS

13. In document WHC/17/41.COM/INF.14.II, the Internal Oversight Service considered “...that the Committee could redirect any savings generated from changing working methods to other critically underfunded functions” (paragraph 46). Among others, it suggested to “...reduce the role of the Advisory Bodies in assessing international assistance and align with the practice of 2003 Convention...” (Table 4).

² This Article states that international assistance “may also be concerned with identification of cultural or natural property... when preliminary investigations have shown that further inquiries would be justified.”

14. The World Heritage Committee may wish to address this recommendation and examine the role of the Advisory Bodies in the International Assistance process, possibly in the framework of the ad hoc working group.

V. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision: 41 COM 13

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC/17/41.COM/13,
2. Warmly thanks the States Parties of Italy, India, the Republic of Korea, Finland, the Philippines, Turkey and Germany for their contributions which made possible the funding of several International Assistance requests since 2010;
3. Also warmly thanks the States Parties of the Netherlands and Japan for having financed via their Funds-in-Trusts International Assistance requests presented on the International Assistance “Marketplace” web-page;
4. Recalling Decision **40 COM 14**, paragraph 6, strongly appeals to all States Parties to contribute to the sub-account of the World Heritage Fund for International Assistance by choosing among the options described in Resolution **19 GA 8**;
5. Commends the World Heritage Centre for its successful initiative to propose International Assistance requests which have been recommended for approval but not funded due to lack of funding, to potential donors, through the dedicated “Marketplace” web-page.

I. **26 INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTS APPROVED IN 2016-2017 UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE BUDGET (AS OF 31 MAY 2017)**

Region	State Party (in bold: Least Developed Countries)	Title	Name of properties (in bold: sites on the Danger List)	Amount approved (in US\$)	Approval date	Criteria applied (based on Advisory Bodies' comments)
CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE (17 requests)				457 622		
Culture (17 requests)				379 789		
AFR	Cabo Verde	Illustrated handbook on urban planning regulations at Cidade Velha	Cidade Velha, Historic Centre of Ribeira Grande (on the World Heritage List since 2009)	27 900	21 March 2017	A.1, A.2, B.3, B.9, C.10, C.11, C.13, C.14, D.18, D.19
AFR	Eritrea	Technical capacity development	The Historic Perimeter of Asmara and its Modernist Architecture (on Tentative List since 2005)	30 000	17 July 2016	A.1, A.2, B.3, B.8, C.10, C.11, C.12, C.13, C.15, D.18, D.19, E.41, E.42, E.43
AFR	Ethiopia	Enhancing the management of the Fasil Ghebbi World Heritage Property with better Understanding of the World Heritage Convention	Fasil Ghebbi, Gondar Region (on the World Heritage List since 1979)	24 150	22 May 2017	A.1, A.2, B.3, C.10, C.11, C.13, D.18, E.34, E.48
AFR	Gambia	Review and update of the management plan of the Stone Circles of Senegambia	Stone Circles of Senegambia (on the World Heritage List since 2006)	27 018	5 April 2016	A.1, A.2, B.3, C.10, C.13, C.14, D.18, E.34
AFR	Nigeria	Conservation and restoration of key features of the site affected or damaged during insurgent attacks on the landscape in addition to replacement of destroyed and stolen fire fighting equipment	Sukur Cultural Landscape (on the World Heritage List since 1999)	19 867	21 March 2017	A.1, A.2, B.3, C.10, C.12, C.14, D.18, E.35

Region	State Party (in bold: Least Developed Countries)	Title	Name of properties (in bold: sites on the Danger List)	Amount approved (in US\$)	Approval date	Criteria applied (based on Advisory Bodies' comments)
ARB	Palestine	Management and Conservation Plan for the World Heritage Site of Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines: the Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir	Palestine: Land of Olives and Vines – Cultural Landscape of Southern Jerusalem, Battir (on the World Heritage List and on the List of World Heritage in Danger since 2014)	30 000	12 February 2016	A.1, A.2, B.3, B.4, C.10, C.13, C.14, D.18, E.34
ARB	Palestine	Management Plan and Conservation Plan for the World Heritage Site: Birthplace of Jesus: Church of the Nativity and the Pilgrimage Route	Birthplace of Jesus: Church of the Nativity and the Pilgrimage Route, Bethlehem (on the World Heritage List and on the List of World Heritage in Danger since 2012)	30 000	18 May 2016	A.1, A.2, A.3, A.4, C.10, C.12, C.14, D.18, E.34
APA	Uzbekistan	Development of a Management Plan for the Historic Centre of Bukhara	Historic Centre of Bukhara (on the World Heritage List since 1993)	29 000	12 February 2016	A.1, A.2, B.3, C.10, C.12, C.13, C.14, D.18, E.34
APA	Micronesia	Initial non-invasive clearing of vegetation overgrowth at Nan Madol	Nan Madol: Ceremonial Centre of Eastern Micronesia (on the World Heritage List and on the List of World Heritage in Danger since 2016)	30 000	21 March 2017	A.1, A.2, B.3, B.4, C.10, C.11, C.12, C.14, D.18, E.35
EUR	Albania	Development of monitoring indicators for the World Heritage property "Historic Centres of Gjirokastra and Berat"	Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastra (on the World Heritage List since 2005-2008)	4 992	2 February 2016	n.a.
EUR	Albania	Regional Training Course on Emergency Response to Cultural Heritage at Risk	n.a.	26 090	22 May 2017	A.1, A.2, B.7, C.10, C.13, D.18, E.38, E.39, E.40

Region	State Party (in bold: Least Developed Countries)	Title	Name of properties (in bold: sites on the Danger List)	Amount approved (in US\$)	Approval date	Criteria applied (based on Advisory Bodies' comments)
EUR	Armenia	Public awareness campaign for promotion of the World Heritage Convention	n.a.	9 980	23 October 2016	A.1, A.2, B.8, C.10, C.14, D.18, E.47, E.48
EUR	Armenia	Regional Thematic Expert Consultation meeting on sustainable management of World Heritage properties of Religious Interest focused on Eastern Europe	n.a.	24 500	22 May 2017	A.1, A.2, B.9, C.10 C.11, C.16, D.18, E.39, E.48
EUR	Bulgaria	Project for centralized control and remote monitoring of a system for precise air conditioning in the Boyana Church	Boyana Church (on the World Heritage List since 1979)	21 224	18 May 2016	A.1, A.2, C.10, C.12, C.15, D.18, D.19, E.34
EUR	Bulgaria	Mediaeval World Heritage properties in North East Bulgaria	n.a.	9 668	18 May 2016	A.1, A.2, C.10, C.13, D.18, E.47, E.51
EUR	Montenegro	Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) workshop	n.a.	15 500	22 May 2017	A.1, A.2, C.10, C.11, C.12, C.13, C.14, D.18, E.38, E.39, E.42
LAC	Paraguay	Jesuit Missions of La Santísima Trinidad de Paraná and Jesús de Tavarangue	Jesuit Missions of La Santísima Trinidad de Paraná and Jesús de Tavarangue (on the World Heritage List since 1993)	19 900	22 May 2017	A.1, A.2, C.10, C.11, C.13, D.18, E.34, E.38, E.39
Nature (3 requests)				77 833		
AFR	Botswana	Review of the management plan for Okavango Delta World Heritage property	Okavango Delta (on the World Heritage List since 2014)	27 080	22 May 2017	A.1, A.2, C.10, D.11, C.13, D.18, E.34, E.37, E.38, E.39, E.43
AFR	Malawi	Strengthening the management of Lake Malawi National Park World Heritage site	Lake Malawi National Park (on the World Heritage List since 1984)	21 079	22 May 2017	A.1, A.2, B.3, C.10, C.11, C.12, C.14, D.18, E.34, E.37, E.38, E.39

Region	State Party (in bold: Least Developed Countries)	Title	Name of properties (in bold: sites on the Danger List)	Amount approved (in US\$)	Approval date	Criteria applied (based on Advisory Bodies' comments)
AFR	Senegal	Update of the management plan of Niokolo-Koba National Park	Niokolo-Koba National Park (<i>on the World Heritage List since 1981 and on the List of World Heritage in Danger since 2007</i>)	29 674	22 May 2017	A.1, A.2, B.3, C.10, C.11, C.12, C.13, C.14, D.18, E.34, E.37, E.38, E.39
PREPARATORY ASSISTANCE (5 requests)				134 758		
Culture (4 requests)				105 290		
AFR	Mali	Assistance project for the preparation of the nomination of the sacred house (Kamablon) Kangaba and associated sites including the historic site of Kurukan Fuga Kangaba and the sacred house of Kéniéro on the World Heritage List	Kamablon (<i>on Tentative List since 1999</i>)	23 890	12 February 2016	A.1, A.2, B.3, C.10, C.11, C.13, C.14, D.18, E.24, E.27
AFR	Eritrea	Conservation master plan of the Historic City of Asmara	The Historic Perimeter of Asmara and its Modernist Architecture (<i>on Tentative List since 2005</i>)	30 000	5 April 2016	A.1, A.2, B.3, C.10, C.11, C.12, C.13, C.14, D.18, E.24, E.27
AFR	Kenya	Revision of Thimlich Ohinga nomination dossier	The Thimlich Ohinga Cultural Landscape (<i>on Tentative List since 2010</i>)	21 400	18 May 2016	A.1, A.2, C.10, C.11, C.12, C.13, C.14, D.18, E.24, E.25, E.27
AFR	Madagascar	Implementation of a general heritage inventory and a mapping of the sector Haute Ville at Antananarivo	La Haute Ville d'Antananarivo (<i>on Tentative List since 2016</i>)	30 000	21 March 2017	A.1, A.2, B.3, C.10, C.11, C.13, D.18, E.24, E.25, E.27
Mixed (1 request)				29 468		
AFR	Madagascar	Update of Madagascar Tentative List	n.a.	29 468	18 May 2016	A.1, A.2, B.3, B.5, C.10, C.11, C.12, C.13, C.14, D.18, E.29, E.30

Region	State Party (in bold: Least Developed Countries)	Title	Name of properties (in bold: sites on the Danger List)	Amount approved (in US\$)	Approval date	Criteria applied (based on Advisory Bodies' comments)
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE (1 request)				5 025		
Culture (1 request)				5 025		
AFR	Gambia	Rehabilitation of the roof of the CFAO building	Kunta Kinteh Island and Related Sites (on the World Heritage List since 2003)	5 025	26 October 2016	A.1, A.2, B.3, C.10, C.11, C.12, D.18, E.21, E.22

II. 1 INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST APPROVED IN 2016-2017 UNDER THE FINNISH FUNDS EARMARKED FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AS OF 31 MAY 2017)

Region	State Party (in bold: Least Developed Countries)	Title	Name of properties (in bold: sites in danger)	Amount approved (in US\$)	Approval date	Criteria applied (based on Advisory Bodies' comments)
CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE (1 request)				30 000		
Mixed (1 request)				30 000		
AFR	Gabon	Enhancement of Lopé	Ecosystem and Relict Cultural Landscape of Lopé-Okanda (on the World Heritage List since 2007)	30 000	18 May 2016	A.1, A.2, B.8, C.10, C.12, C.13, C.14, D.18, D.19

III. 8 INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTS NOT APPROVED IN 2016-2017

Region	State Party (in bold: Least Developed Countries)	Title	Name of properties (in bold: sites in danger)	Decision date	Reason for non-approval
CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE (5 requests)					
Culture (4 requests)					
AFR	Eritrea	Awareness-raising workshop on World Heritage Convention and new nomination of the Historic City of Asmara	The Historic Perimeter of Asmara and its Modernist Architecture (<i>on Tentative List since 2005</i>)	23 October 2016	The workshop as described in the request would have a too narrow appeal and awareness-raising related to a nomination should intervene prior to the submission of the dossier and not during the evaluation process.
EUR	Albania	Exhibition and publication on World Heritage Sites in Albania	n.a.	21 March 2017	This activity is not a priority one. Moreover, an itinerant exhibition on World Heritage sites in Albania was funded with the support of UNESCO Office in Venice in 2015 and could be used for awareness-raising purposes.
EUR	Armenia	Technical assistance for land improvement of Sanahin Monastery Complex	Monasteries of Haghpat and Sanahin (<i>on the World Heritage List since 1996</i>)	05 April 2016	This activity would be premature at this stage; it would be necessary to have first a Plan of Management which would include an indication of priority tasks and an indicative program for conservation.
EUR	Armenia	International workshop for drafting a concept note on management plan for World Heritage sites in Armenia	n.a.	05 April 2016	This activity would be premature at this stage; it would be a logical successor to IA n°2778, once it is implemented.
Nature (1 request)					
AFR	Madagascar	Conservation and management of the Rainforests of the Atsinanana in partnership with local communities	Rainforests of the Atsinanana (<i>on the World Heritage List since 2007 and on the List of World Heritage in Danger since 2010</i>)	18 May 2016	The implementation of the request approved previously (IA n°2128) must be completed before any new approval of a request for this property.

Region	State Party (in bold: Least Developed Countries)	Title	Name of properties (in bold: sites in danger)	Decision date	Reason for non-approval
PREPARATORY ASSISTANCE (3 requests)					
Culture (3 requests)					
AFR	Ethiopia	Preparation of proposed World Heritage Tentative List project Yeha Historical and Archaeological Site, Tigray Region	n.a.	21 March 2017	Extensive research has already been undertaken on the site of Yeha, and funding this type of work for a single entry on the Tentative List would not be the most effective use of the limited funding available under Preparatory assistance.
AFR	Ghana	Nomination of the Tongo-Tengzuk Cultural Landscape and Shrines for Inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List	Tenzug - Tallensi settlements (<i>on Tentative List since 2000</i>)	12 February 2016	It is premature to consider the drafting of a revised nomination at this stage without substantial surveys and research on the potential Outstanding Universal Value of the cultural landscape, as well as without more work to define larger boundaries and revive traditional practices. Without all these elements, a revised nomination is unlikely to succeed.
EUR	Belarus	Organization of an advisory mission of international experts in cultural and natural Heritage for the completion of Augustow channel nomination file for submission to UNESCO World Heritage List	Augustow Canal (<i>on Tentative List since 2004</i>)	05 April 2016	The nomination dossier submitted in 2008 for this site was evaluated for non-inscription.