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# World Heritage

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**UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION**

**CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION  
OF WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE**

**WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE**

**Thirty-third session**

**Seville, Spain**

**22 to 30 June 2009**

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

**INF.5A.2: Report from the Nordic World Heritage Foundation on its 2008 activities**

## **SUMMARY**

This document presents a brief background to the Nordic World Heritage Foundation, and describes progress in the establishment of the Foundation.

This document contains two parts :

Part I : background of the North World Heritage Foundation

Part II : objectives and activities of the North World Heritage Foundation

**Draft Decision: 33 COM INF.5A.2**

## I. Background

1. The Nordic World Heritage Office (NWHO) was established in 1996 with the objective of supporting the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Nordic Countries and to support the World Heritage Committee in the follow up of the Global Strategy. On the basis of the recommendation of an external evaluation in 2001, and in accordance with Article 17 of the *Convention*, the Office became a Foundation (NWHF) in 2002. The creation of the Foundation was supported by the Nordic Governments and in conformity with the Guidelines concerning the creation of institutes and centres under the auspices of UNESCO as adopted by the General Conference (**33C/Resolution 90**).
2. The General Conference of UNESCO at its 32nd session in October 2003 decided (**32 C/Resolution 36**), on the recommendation of UNESCO's Executive Board (**166 EX/Decision 3.4.4**), to grant the Foundation the status of a **regional centre under the auspices of UNESCO (category II centre)** and authorised the Director-General to enter into a cooperation agreement with the Foundation. The Agreement between UNESCO and NWHF states that the continuation of its status as a regional centre under the auspices of UNESCO will be subject to periodic review on the basis of an independent evaluation before the end of 2008, which is the end of the initial duration of the Agreement. The evaluation was undertaken in 2007. The renewal of the Agreement between UNESCO and Norway was subject to a decision at the 179th session of UNESCO's Executive Board to renew the grant of auspices of UNESCO to the Foundation. A new agreement, between UNESCO and the Norwegian Government will enter into force for the next six years, in line with the period of UNESCO's medium-term strategy.
3. For the period 2006-2008, NWHF's Board of Directors adopted a strategy to guide the work within the framework of UNESCO's World Heritage mission and the Global Strategy. Following the renewed agreement between UNESCO and the Norwegian government concerning NWHF, signed in Paris in October 2008, the Board has adopted a new Strategy for the period of 2009 - 2014, outlining its main goals:
  1. Promote a more balanced World Heritage List as reflected by the Global Strategy adopted by the World Heritage Committee, focusing on the support of World Heritage projects that promote sustainable development;
  2. Further the implementation of the Convention by promoting awareness knowledge and responsiveness on World Heritage and sustainable development amongst decisions makers as well as professionals in fields related to the protection and conservation of World Heritage; and,
  3. Support the development of new and innovative approaches for promoting World Heritage and sustainable development.
4. NWHF's Board of Directors consists of seven members, of which five members represent the Nordic countries and one member represents UNESCO. UNESCO is not legally responsible for the Foundation and bears no liabilities of any kind, be it managerial, financial or otherwise, but may contribute to the Foundation's activities. The Board serves for four years (2008 – 2012). The Foundation receives its annual basic funding from the Government of Norway. All initiatives of the Foundation are coordinated with the World Heritage Centre to avoid any duplication of efforts. To ensure that the priorities set by the World Heritage Committee are addressed and to secure transparency in all NWHF initiatives, the World Heritage Committee receives an annual report on the Foundation's activities.

## II. Objectives and activities

5. NWHF contributes to the medium-term strategies of UNESCO, in particular the implementation of standard-setting instruments in the field of culture and enhancing the linkages between culture, capacity-building and sharing of knowledge. The Foundation has the following purposes: (a) acts as a focal point bringing Nordic countries together in their collective attempt to fulfil the intentions and requirements of the *Convention*; (b) support the World Heritage Centre by facilitating technical expertise, disseminating information and contributing to innovative projects, all in support of the *Convention* and the World Heritage Committee's Global Strategy; and (c) mobilise funds from bilateral, multilateral and private sources and facilitate assistance for natural and cultural World Heritage conservation efforts in developing countries.
6. As a **focal point for the Nordic countries**, NWHF provides advice for the Nordic States Parties, local government and other interested parties. NWHF facilitates regional cooperation in the Nordic countries by coordinating Periodic Reporting and other World Heritage activities, and seeks to increase awareness of the *World Heritage Convention* among heritage experts, decision-makers and the general public.
  - Key activities in 2008 included; the production and distribution of a World Heritage Newsletter to all Nordic site managers; advisory role to Nordic World Heritage sites, authorities and general public.
7. NWHF supports the implementation of the World Heritage Committee's **Global Strategy** (1994) by raising funds for World Heritage projects and programmes in developing countries that are underrepresented on the World Heritage List.
  - Key activities in 2008 included; technical and financial support to the African World Heritage Fund and continued support for Natural Heritage nominations; feasibility study for the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on sustainable tourism as a development tool; participation as key partner in UNESCO's World Heritage Tourism Programme.
8. In **mobilising funds** from bilateral, multilateral and private sources for natural and cultural World Heritage conservation efforts, NWHF seeks to be updated on donor policies and increase awareness of development issues related to the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

### New funding mobilised for projects 2008 (in thousands)

Project / Activity	Partner	NOK	USD <sup>1</sup>
<b>Environmental Processes.</b> Support to participants from developing countries to attend the 32 <sup>nd</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee.	UNESCO/ WHC/ Government of Norway	200 000	31 000
<b>FK Norway.</b> Feasibility study on an exchange programme for staff between NWHF and AWHF.	FK Norway/African World Heritage Fund	49 000	7500
	<b>Total</b>	<b>249 000</b>	<b>38 500</b>

<sup>1</sup> 1 USD = 6,6 NOK