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# World Heritage

# 35 COM

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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC  
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CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF  
THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

Thirty-fifth session

Paris, UNESCO Headquarters

19-29 June 2011

**Item 9 of the Provisional Agenda: Global Strategy for a representative,  
balanced and credible World Heritage List**

**9C. Recommendations of the Science and Technology Expert Working  
Group in the context of World Heritage Nominations**

## SUMMARY

The Committee at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010) requested the inclusion of this item in the agenda. This document contains a summary of issues linked to scientific and technological heritage within the framework of the *World Heritage Convention* and its Global Strategy, following the international expert working group held in London, United Kingdom, 21-23 January 2008.

**Draft Decision: 35 COM 9C**, see Point II.

## **I. International Expert Working Group on World Heritage and Science and Technology**

### **A Introduction**

1. The Science and Technology Expert Working Group in the context of World Heritage Nominations which took place in London, United Kingdom, 21-23 January 2008.
2. The offer of hosting the working group was accepted by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007) with Decision **31 COM 9**. The meeting was attended by 45 participants from 15 countries, as well as by Representatives of IUCN, ICOMOS, ICCROM, the Ramsar Convention, and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

### **B. Results of the meeting**

3. The meeting made a number of specific recommendations which were presented in information document WHC-08/32.COM/INF.10 available on-line at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/sessions/32COM>. Presentations and papers were also made available at [www.unesco.org.uk](http://www.unesco.org.uk).

### **C. Decisions of the Committee**

4. The Committee at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008) in its Decision **32 COM 10 A** took note of the rich reflection, results and recommendations of the Science and Technology expert workshop within the framework of the Global Strategy. It requested IUCN and ICOMOS to continue to develop their work on thematic studies, in relation to priorities identified in Document WHC-08/32.COM/10A-
5. The Committee at its 32nd session (Quebec City, 2008) examined, in conjunction with Document WHC-08/32.COM/10A, the Integrated Implementation Strategy of the Thematic Initiative "Astronomy and World Heritage" (Decision **32 COM 5**) developed accordingly to its Decisions **28 COM 9** and **29 COM 5B** adopted at its 28th and 29th sessions (Suzhou, 2004 and Durban, 2005).

### **D. Follow-up**

6. Subsequently the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies also prepared draft revisions to the Operational Guidelines, taking account of the Committee's debate on the results of a number of International expert meetings for consideration by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in 2009.
7. The Committee at its 33rd and 34th sessions (Seville, 2009 and Brasilia, 2010) reviewed the proposed revisions and requested that a number of changes to the Operational Guidelines be reviewed by a Working Group. This Working Group met in November 2010 and examined also the recommendations of the Science and Technology Expert Working Group in the context of World Heritage Nominations. However these were not endorsed and it was considered that further reflections are necessary including in the framework of reflections on the use of criterion (vi).
8. The Committee at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010) also took note of the activities organized by the States Parties within the framework of the Thematic Initiative "Astronomy and World Heritage". The Committee requested the World Heritage Centre to disseminate

among the States Parties the Thematic Study on Astronomical Heritage jointly prepared by ICOMOS and the International Astronomical Union (IAU) Working Group, in line with Decision **32 COM 10A** and within the framework of the Integrated Implementation Strategy of this Initiative. A second Statement of Working Methods and Formal Processes for the Implementation of Activities was established within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between UNESCO and IAU extended in October 2010. All relevant documents were made available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/astronomy/>.

9. ICOMOS informed that the thematic study on Water Heritage Management started and that a progress report shall be presented at the 35th session of the Committee.

## **II. Draft Decision**

### **Draft Decision 35 COM 9C**

*The World Heritage Committee,*

1. *Having examined Document WHC-11/35.COM/9C*
2. *Recalling Decisions **31 COM 9** and **32 COM 10A** adopted at its 31st (Christchurch, 2007) and 32nd (Quebec City, 2008) sessions respectively;*
3. *Notes the information provided on the Recommendations of the Science and Technology Expert Working Group in the context of World Heritage Nominations (London 2008) and subsequent discussions on revisions to the Operational Guidelines;*
4. *Further notes the completion of the thematic study on “Heritage Sites of Astronomy and Archaeoastronomy in the context of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention” and progress made on the study on “Water Heritage Management”;*
5. *Encourages States Parties to take into account the recommendations provided by the Science and Technology Expert Working Group in the context of World Heritage Nominations (London 2008), as well as recommendations developed within the framework of the Thematic Initiative “Astronomy and World Heritage” while preparing nominations to the World Heritage List and requests the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies to integrate relevant issues into a future expert meeting on criterion (vi);*
6. *Further encourages States Parties and donors to identify additional resources for the completion of thematic studies, their publication and dissemination.*