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REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE ON ITS ACTIVITIES (2010-2011)

OUTLINE

Source: Article 29.3 of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage stipulates that "the Committee shall submit a report on its activities at each of the ordinary sessions of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization".

Background: The Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the World Heritage Committee, was established by the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by the General Conference at its 17th session on 16 November 1972.

Purpose: This document presents the report concerning the main activities and decisions taken by the World Heritage Committee since the 17th session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention held on 23-28 October 2009. Information related to the 35th session of the World Heritage Committee (19-29 June 2011, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris) is included.

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 17th General Assembly of States Parties (23-28 October 2009) 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 in States Parties
- (d) Increase public awareness, involvement and support for World Heritage through Communication.¹

3. To the existing 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 2011, there are 187 States Parties to the Convention.² Since the 17th General Assembly (23-28 October 2009), Equatorial Guinea has joined the Convention.

B. Current Members of the World Heritage Committee and Bureau

5. 21 members: Australia, Bahrain, Barbados, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Iraq, Jordan, Mali, Mexico, Nigeria, Russian Federation, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Arab Emirates.

Their terms of office are:

Until the end of the 36th session of the General Conference (2011): Australia, Bahrain, Barbados, Brazil, China, Egypt, Jordan, Nigeria, Sweden.

Until the end of the 37th session of the General Conference (2013): Cambodia, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Iraq, Mali, Mexico, Russian Federation, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, United Arab Emirates.

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 2009

JULY 2009 – AUGUST 2010	AUGUST 2010 – JUNE 2011	JUNE 2011
Chairperson: H.E. Mr João Luiz da Silva Ferreira, Brazil	Chairperson: H.E. Mrs Mai Bint Muhammad Al Khalifa, <u>Bahrein</u>	Chairperson: H.E. Mrs Eleonora Mitrovanova, <u>Russian</u> Federation
Rapporteur: Ms Britta Rudolff, <u>Bahrain</u>	Rapporteur: Mr Ould Sidi Ali, <u>Mali</u>	<i>Rapporteur: to be defined at 18 GA</i>
Egypt	Barbados	Australia (provisionally until 18 GA)
Russian Federation	Cambodia	France
South Africa	Estonia	Mexico
Sweden	South Africa	South Africa
Thailand	Switzerland	United Arab Emirates

C. Number of seats in the World Heritage Committee reserved for States Parties with no property on the World Heritage List

6. As per paragraphs (b) and (c) respectively of the Rule 14.1 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention: In case one or more electoral group(s), as defined by the UNESCO General Conference at its most recent session, might have no State Party in the composition of the next Committee, one seat per such electoral group(s) shall be reserved; notwithstanding, at each election, one seat shall be reserved for States Parties with no property on the World Heritage List.

D. World Heritage Statutory Meetings since the 17th General Assembly (23-28 October 2009)

SESSION	VENUE	DATES	DOCUMENTS PREPARED
34th session of the World Heritage Committee (34 COM)	Brasilia	25 July-3 August 2010	38 working documents/ 16 information documents (WHC-10/34.COM/)
35th session of the World Heritage Committee (35 COM)	UNESCO	19-29 June 2011	41 working documents / 19 information documents (WHC-11/35.COM/)
TOTAL	79 working / 35 information documents		(114 documents in total)

E. Strengthening the credibility of the World Heritage List

Nominations to the World Heritage List

Inscription of properties on the World Heritage List since the 17th General Assembly (2009):

Region	New cultural properties	New natural properties	New mixed properties	Total
Africa	3	1	[1] ³	4
Arab States	4	-	1	5
Asia/Pacific	14	5	-	19
Europe/North America	9	2	1	12
Latin America/Caribbean	6	-	-	6
TOTAL	36	8	2	46

7. The total number of properties on the World Heritage List as of July 2011 is 936 (725 cultural, 183 natural and 28 mixed).⁴ These properties are located in 153 States Parties (i.e. 34 States Parties have no property inscribed on the World Heritage List). As of April 2011, 162 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 17th General Assembly (2009)

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
34 COM (Brasilia, 2010)	4 Everglades National Park (United States of America) Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery (Georgia) Rainforests of the Atsinanana (Madagascar) Tombs of Buganda Kings at Kasubi (Uganda)	1 Galápagos Islands (Ecuador)
35 COM (UNESCO, 2011)	2 Río Plátano Biosphere Reserve (Honduras) Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia)	1 Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (India)

8. The total number of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger as of July 2011 is 35 (18 cultural and 17 natural).⁵ These properties are located in 27 States Parties.

³ One natural property was also inscribed under cultural criteria and became a mixed property

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

⁵ The list of World Heritage in Danger is available on the web at the following address : <http://whc.unesco.org/en/danger/>.

Deletion of properties from the World Heritage List

9. None since 2009.

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

10. 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-11/35.COM/5A. By decision 34 COM 9A, the Committee adopted the Terms of Reference for the evaluation of the Global Strategy for a representative, balanced, and credible World Heritage List. The full report of this Audit has been presented to the 35th session of the Committee in documents WHC-11/35.COM/9A and WHC-11/35.COM/INF.9A.

F. Ensuring the effective conservation of World Heritage properties

State of conservation reports of World Heritage properties examined by the Committee since the 17th General Assembly (2009)

34 COM	LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER	WORLD HERITAGE LIST
Africa	12	19
Arab States	5	12
Asia/Pacific	6	20
Europe/North America	2	44
Latin America/ Caribbean	6	21
TOTAL	31	116
35 COM	LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER	WORLD HERITAGE LIST
Africa	14	16
Arab States	5	15
Asia/Pacific	6	34
Europe/North America	4	45
Latin America/ Caribbean	5	26
TOTAL	34	136

Approved International Assistance (IA) from the World Heritage Fund since the 17th General Assembly (2009) as of July 2011

REGIONS	NUMBER OF STATES PARTIES TO REQUEST IA	NUMBER OF REQUESTS	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROVED (in USD)
Africa	7	8	294,002
Arab States	5	5	132,074
Asia and Pacific	5	6	113,596
Europe and North America	6	6	95,680
Latin America & Caribbean	8	9	441,795
TOTAL	31	34	1,077,147

11. As part of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting the results of the exercise in the Arab Region have been reported on at the 34th session (2010) of the Committee and the results of the second cycle exercise in the African region has been reported upon at the 35th session of the Committee (Decision 35 COM 10A). The exercise for the Latin American and Caribbean region has been officially launched in 2011. The process is on-going in the Asia-Pacific region since 2010, and it will be launched for the Europe and North American region in 2013.

Reinforced monitoring mechanism

12. The World Heritage Committee at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007) adopted with immediate effect the reinforced monitoring mechanism proposed by the Director-General to ensure the proper implementation of its decisions concerning the state of conservation of properties. The Committee underlined that reinforced monitoring is a constant cooperative process with the State Party concerned (Decision 31 COM 5.2).

13. At its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010), the Committee decided to continue applying this Reinforced monitoring mechanism to the following World Heritage properties:

- (i) Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) – Continuation
- (ii) Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) – Continuation
- (iii) Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) – Continuation
- (iv) Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of the Congo) – Continuation
- (v) Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan) – Continuation
- (vi) Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Serbia) – Continuation
- (vii) Preah Vihear (Cambodia) – Continuation
- (viii) Manovo Gounda St. Floris National Park (Central African Republic) – Continuation

14. At its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011), the Committee decided to continue applying this Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism to all the above-mentioned properties.

International conferences and symposiums

15. 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. An inventory of these activities is included in document WHC-11/35.COM/5A.

16. At its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010), the Committee decided that a draft of the Strategic Action Plan and Vision should be elaborated at the 35th session of the Committee for transmission to the 18th session of General Assembly in 2011 for its consideration. A specific open-ended Working Group, established by the Committee at its 33rd and 34th sessions, and chaired by Australia met to discuss the issues regarding the Future of the Convention. Several experts meetings were organized in the framework of the reflection on this subject and notably:

- Expert Meeting in Paraty (Brazil, March 2010), on the relationship between the World Heritage Convention, conservation and sustainable development.
- Expert meeting on “Upstream processes to nominations: creative approaches in the nomination process” in Phuket (Thailand, April 2010), with the aim to identify options to refine and augment the provision of support, advice and feedback to States Parties throughout the nomination process.

- Expert meeting on “Decision-making procedures of the statutory organs of the World Heritage Convention” in Manama (Bahrain, December 2010), to identify opportunities for increasing the efficiency and transparency of these procedures.
- Expert meeting on “Global state of conservation challenges for World Heritage properties” in Dakar (Senegal, April 2011), with the aim to develop creative approaches to assist States Parties and World Heritage site-managers in effectively responding to the range of problems that emerge from inscribed properties.

17. A Draft Strategic Action Plan and Vision to guide the implementation of the World Heritage Convention over the decade 2012-2022 was presented to the 35th session of the World Heritage Committee. An open-ended working group was established by the 35th session which updated and refined the Strategic Action Plan and Vision (Decisions 35 COM 12 A to 35 COM 12 E) for the consideration of the 18th General Assembly.

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

Global training strategy

18. At its 34th session, the World Heritage Committee, requested ICCROM, in collaboration with IUCN, ICOMOS, the World Heritage Centre, the UNESCO Chairs and category 2 centres related to World Heritage to finalize a new World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy for discussion at its 35th session in 2011. The finalized World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy was presented to the 35th session of the Committee (Document: WHC-11/35.COM/9B and Decision 35 COM 9B).

Education activities

19. A number of international World Heritage youth fora, youth volunteer projects and international as well as regional workshop and training courses were organized by the World Heritage Centre or with the Centre's assistance to develop educational activities related to World Heritage (an inventory of these activities is included in document WHC-11/35.COM/5A).

20. New translations and adaptations of the World Heritage in Young Hands Educational Resource Kit for Teachers are currently being undertaken in Turkish, Vietnamese, Croatian, Serbian, Ukrainian, Sinhala and Tamil as well as the final interactive DVD version of the Kit, in close collaboration with the concerned Member States.

21. The Patrimonto Storyboard Competition 2010-2011 resulted in the selection of 4 best storyboards on each of the themes of biodiversity, role of communities, sustainable development and sustainable tourism, chosen from a total of 289 storyboards coming from the National Commissions of 43 States Parties. The film production concerning the theme of the role of communities in World Heritage preservation has started in May 2011.

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

Awareness-raising

22. In 2010, the World Heritage website <http://whc.unesco.org> received an average of 22,210 visits per day. Traffic to the World Heritage website has increased by 22%, from 6,624,817 visits in 2009 to 8,106,854 in 2010.

23. Four e-mail newsletters “WH-Info” were sent between October 2009 and June 2010 to over 80,000 registered members of the World Heritage website.

24. Articles and interviews on World Heritage have been published through work with numerous national and international well-known media.

Publications

25. 100,000 World Heritage Maps were produced and disseminated in English, French and Spanish with National Geographic and UNF in 2009-2010 and with National Geographic, UNF and the Bahraini Ministry of Culture in 2010-2011, including 20,000 copies in Arabic.

26. Two new publications were issued in the World Heritage Paper Series: Number 26 on Cultural Landscapes and Number 27 on Managing Historic Cities.

27. Six issues of the quarterly magazine World Heritage (number 54 to 59) were published between November 2009 and April 2011.

28. Information on all publications issued by the World Heritage Centre in the period since the 17th General Assembly can be found in the working Document WHC-11/35.COM/5A submitted to the Committee at its 35th session.

29. The new World Heritage Resource Manual Series was launched with two titles published as PDF versions in English and French: Managing Disaster Risks for World Heritage and Preparing World Heritage Nominations.

Bilateral Agreements with States Parties and Partnerships

30. Since 2009, bilateral agreements have been concluded/ continued with 21 States Parties and the World Heritage Centre has consolidated/established 29 partnerships with private sector companies. The Centre manages all the agreements in cooperation with UNESCO central services and reports to the World Heritage Committee and the Executive Board on each of the active partnerships. An inventory of active and envisaged partnerships with the private sector was presented to the Committee at its 35th session in document WHC-11/35.COM/INF.5A.1

31. Furthermore, 8 Memoranda of Understanding are currently implemented with Universities, out of which 4 have been established since 2009.