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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

Thirty-sixth session

**Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation
24 June– 6 July 2012**

**Item 5 of the Provisional Agenda: Reports of the World Heritage Centre and
the Advisory Bodies**

5B. Reports of the Advisory Bodies

SUMMARY

This document contains the brief summary reports of the Advisory Bodies (ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN) on their activities in 2011-2012 from the 35th to 36th session of the World Heritage Committee as follows:

- I. ICCROM
- II. ICOMOS
- III. IUCN

In response to the request of the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session (Decision **35 COM 5B** point 3 c), a joint summary table on activities has been prepared in Annex to this document.

Draft Decision: 36 COM 5B, see point V.

I. REPORT ON ICCROM ACTIVITIES

A.1. Introduction

1. The following is a summary report of the ICCROM activities for 2011-2012 based on an outline agreed with the World Heritage Centre. The Committee members are welcome to contact ICCROM for further information on any aspect of the report. Budgetary issues will be reported separately under the budget item of the Committee's agenda. ICCROM support to the Committee, during the period of this report, has been provided principally by Joseph King (ICCROM World Heritage Coordinator), Gamini Wijesuriya (Deputy World Heritage Coordinator), Zaki Aslan, Daijiro Kitagawa, and Elena Incerti Medici all under the direction of ICCROM Director-General, Mounir Bouchenaki.

A.2. 35th session of the World Heritage Committee:

2. The 35th session of the World Heritage Committee was attended by a strong delegation of ICCROM lead by its Director-General, 3 staff members, and 2 interns. ICCROM also remained fully involved in preparatory activities including meetings of the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, preparation of Committee documentation, and attendance at the 18th session of the General Assembly of States Parties.

A.3. Monitoring of State of conservation of World Heritage properties

3. ICCROM was involved in 2 Reactive Monitoring missions in 2011 as requested by the World Heritage Committee. ICCROM participated in the drafting of the State of Conservation reports for the Committee, including an intensive drafting week in Paris in April 2011. ICCROM also reviewed additional information received from the World Heritage Centre with regard to the state of conservation of World Heritage properties.

A.4. Periodic Reporting

4. ICCROM continued active participation in the Periodic Reporting process including attending meetings in the following five regions: sub-Saharan Africa, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Europe and North America. Follow-up work is also being carried out in sub-Saharan Africa and the Arab States to identify capacity building needs as a result of the Periodic Reporting process. This process is also already being started in the remaining regions working on the second cycle of Periodic Reporting.

A.5. Capacity Building for World Heritage

5. ICCROM organized the Orientation Session of members of the World Heritage Committee prior to the 35th session of the Committee in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre, ICOMOS, and IUCN. ICCROM working with IUCN, ICOMOS, and the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with Switzerland and other capacity building partners, finalized the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy. Before completing this document, it was sent out to States Parties and other capacity building stakeholders for comments. The document was presented to the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session and was adopted. ICCROM is now working on follow-up and implementation with partners.
6. ICCROM, IUCN, and ICOMOS, in collaboration with Switzerland continued implementation of the three-year World Heritage Capacity Building project. Activities in 2011 included:

- a) a regional World Heritage workshop to strengthen the Advisory Bodies networks in sub-Saharan Africa, held in Mombasa, Kenya, carried out in partnership with the Centre for Heritage Development in Africa (CHDA);
 - b) a regional World Heritage workshop to strengthen the Advisory Bodies networks in the Arab States region, held in Manama, Bahrain in collaboration with the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH) and ICCROM's Athar Programme;
 - c) a participatory assessment of the Masters in World Heritage Management at University College, Dublin;
 - d) the publication of the first World Heritage Capacity Building newsletter.
7. Work is on-going on the third volume in the series of World Heritage Resource Manuals. This third volume will cover the management of cultural heritage properties. It is expected that work will be completed during 2012.
8. ICCROM has collaborated with a number of the UNESCO Category 2 Centres on planning and implementation of capacity building activities. These included:
- a) participation in a meeting for Strategic Planning for the Lucio Costa Centre in Brazil;
 - b) implementation of a course on *Managing World Heritage Sites: Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies* in cooperation with the Regional Centre for World Heritage in Zacatecas;
 - c) collaboration with ARC-WH in Bahrain on the above-mentioned regional workshop;
 - d) Attendance at a seminar on traditional skills for conservation at WHITR-AP in Shanghai, organized in collaboration with the Asia/Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO (ACCU Nara Office).
9. ICCROM carried out a workshop in Albania in collaboration with the UNESCO Venice Office to aid in the preparation of disaster risk management plans for the World Heritage properties of Butrint and the Historic Centres of Berat and Gjirokastra. ICCROM carried out a workshop in collaboration with the Cultural Heritage Administration of the Republic of Korea to aid in the preparation of a manual and disaster risk management plan for World Heritage property of the Historic Villages of Korea: Hahoe and Yangdong. ICCROM staff provided lecturers for the "World Heritage at Work Masters Programme" in Turin, Italy.
10. ICCROM worked with State Parties for the improved conservation and management of World Heritage properties, in particular in the Cultural Landscape and Archaeological Remains of the Bamiyan Valley (Afghanistan), and two World Heritage properties in Cambodia. ICCROM collaborated with the Cultural Heritage Protection Cooperation, ACCU Nara Office) on the implementation of a course on the conservation of historic wooden structures in the Asia/Pacific region. ICCROM collaborated with the Chinese State Administration for Cultural Heritage and the China Academy of Cultural Heritage on the implementation of an international course on management and monitoring of World Heritage properties with a special reference to China.

A.6. International Assistance

11. ICCROM reviewed 48 requests for international assistance, and participated in three World Heritage International Assistance panels during the year.

A.7. Thematic and technical meetings

12. ICCROM participated in various thematic and technical meetings over the year covering topics such as the state of conservation of World Heritage properties, historic urban landscapes, sustainable tourism, and World Heritage and Human Rights.

A.8. ICCROM Programme

13. In November 2011, the ICCROM General Assembly approved a new programme within ICCROM's biennial Programme and Budget directly concerning World Heritage. The new programme, *Improving Conservation and Management Practices through the World Heritage Convention*, seeks not only to improve the state of conservation and management of World Heritage properties, but also to collect the lessons learned within the World Heritage system so that they can be applied to other cultural properties. It is expected that this new programme will have at least a six-year perspective. The new programme will be strongly linked to the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy.

II. REPORT ON ICOMOS ACTIVITIES

A.1. 35th session of the World Heritage Committee

14. The following is a summary report of the ICOMOS activities for 2011-2012 based on an outline agreed with the World Heritage Centre. The 35th session of the World Heritage Committee was attended by a strong delegation of the International Council on Monuments and Sites. The Advisory Body had contributed to the preparation of the working documents of the Committee in cooperation with the World Heritage Centre and to the Orientation Session with IUCN and ICCROM.
15. ICOMOS presented his work on the evaluation of nominations of cultural and mixed properties, the review of the retrospective statements of Outstanding Universal Value and state of conservation of World Heritage properties. He contributed to the debates on items of the agenda such as revisions of the *Operational Guidelines*, Sustainable development, Tourism and Upstream pilot projects.
16. ICOMOS notes the importance of the evaluation of the Global Strategy that was then approved by the General Assembly of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* and of the Strategic Action Plan.

A.2. Nominations to the World Heritage List

17. For the 2011 cycle, ICOMOS evaluated 29 new nominations on the World Heritage List in line with the *Operational Guidelines*, 6 referred back nominations, 1 deferred nomination, 12 minor modifications/creation of buffer zones that were presented at the 35th session of the World Heritage Committee. For the 2012 cycle, ICOMOS has evaluated 22 new nominations, 2 referred back nominations, 7 deferred nominations, 1 emergency nomination and 20 minor modifications.
18. ICOMOS note the importance of the Upstream process for nomination. It ensured follow-up of the World Heritage Committee decisions on pilot projects identified in consultation with States Parties. Supplementary resources would be necessary to develop further this activity.

A.3. Monitoring of State of conservation of World Heritage properties

19. ICOMOS prepared part of the reports on state of conservation of cultural and mixed properties presented at the 35th session of the World Heritage Committee. It has carried out and prepared a report on 11 reactive monitoring missions for the session, for 7 missions in the second half of 2011 and shall carry out and report on 16 reactive monitoring missions carried out in the first half of 2012.
20. In response to requests emanating from States Parties, ICOMOS carried out three advisory missions.
21. In addition, the World Heritage Centre consults the Advisory Body on a regular basis on issues or threats to World Heritage properties. Complementary research is carried out, through ICOMOS networks, documentation is studied and written reports are made available to the World Heritage Centre.
22. Monitoring the state of conservation of World Heritage properties is an essential activity in the context of the *World Heritage Convention* and additional resources should be made available for its implementation.

A.4. Periodic Reporting

23. The Advisory Body contributed to the activities coordinated by the regional Units in the context of the second cycle of periodic Reporting in the Arab States region, Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Europe and North America.

A.5. Capacity Building for World Heritage

24. ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN continued contribution, in collaboration with Switzerland Government, to the implementation of the three-year World Heritage Capacity Building project. In this context, workshops were organised in Mombasa (Kenya) and in Manama (Bahrain), and a newsletter was launched.
25. ICOMOS carries on its collaboration with Category 2 Centres for the preparation of their programmes and more particularly with the Centres in Rio (Brazil), Zacatecas (Mexico) and Turin (Italy).

A.6. Manuals

26. ICOMOS contributed to the revision of the second edition of the resource manual on preparing nominations and to the preparation of the resource manual dedicated to management of cultural World Heritage properties.

A.7. International Assistance

27. ICOMOS reviewed all requests for international assistance for cultural and mixed properties it was required to, and participated in the review Panels.

A.8. Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value

28. ICOMOS has reviewed all Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value according to the priorities established by the World Heritage Committee. Preparatory work for the review of the retrospective statements from the Latin America and the Caribbean region have started that should allow to start the review.

A.9. Thematic studies

29. The thematic study on Rock Art in Central Asia was finalized and made available in electronic and printed version. The thematic study on the Heritage of Astronomy and Archaeo-astronomy has also been printed. A progress report on the thematic study “The Heritage of water in arid regions” has been distributed.
30. The reflection jointly carried out by the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre on World Heritage and Human Rights continues. Written contributions were made available on occasion of the meetings on “Integrity” and on “criterion (vi) - Associative values”.

A.10. Technical Meetings

31. ICOMOS participated in several technical meetings organised by the World Heritage Centre and also at the General Assembly of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* (November 2011) and the two Advisory Bodies and World Heritage Centre meetings (September 2011 and January 2012).

III. REPORT ON IUCN ACTIVITIES

A.1. Introduction

32. The following is a summary report of the IUCN activities for 2011-2012 based on an outline agreed with the World Heritage Centre. Further information is available at www.iucn.org/worldheritage and Committee members are welcome to contact IUCN for further information on any aspect of the report. Budgetary issues will be reported separately under the agenda item on the budget.

A.2. 35th Session of the World Heritage Committee

33. Session attended with strong, diverse delegation including Director General of IUCN, and two national committees.
34. IUCN welcomes the positive results of the meeting, but is concerned that a number of decisions did not conform to the *Operational Guidelines*, notably in relation to inscriptions of sites on the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger.
35. IUCN notes the importance of the external evaluation of the Global Strategy to the *Convention* which was received at the 35th session, and was subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention*. IUCN also welcomes the agreement of a Strategic Action Plan for the *Convention*. IUCN is fully committed to supporting the Implementation Plan for the Strategic Action Plan, and a full and effective response to implement the recommendations of the Global Strategy Evaluation.

A.3. Evaluation of new nominations

36. Evaluations related to natural and mixed World Heritage nominations were undertaken in line with the procedures established in the *Operational Guidelines*, and input to ICOMOS on nominated cultural landscapes were provided.
37. Extensive support to Upstream Process pilot sites, and additional advice to States Parties across a number of countries and sites in direct response to requests of States Parties was provided. Upstream work is now a very significant unfunded activity of the

Convention and will not succeed without additional resources. Additional dialogue was promoted during the evaluation process.

A.4. Monitoring of State of conservation of World Heritage properties

38. IUCN drafted the majority of state of conservation reports on natural sites which will be presented to the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee. Monitoring missions have been undertaken as requested at the 35th session, and previous sessions of the World Heritage Committee.
39. Wide range of additional information was again reviewed, including Environmental Impact Assessments. Guidance for the drafting of the on Desired state of conservation for removal of properties from the List of World Heritage in Danger has been prepared by IUCN, with the intention of presentation at the 36th session.
40. IUCN reiterates the need for additional resources for monitoring, which is not able to meet all requests of the World Heritage Committee, or of States Parties. There has been no improvement in this situation during the last year.
41. IUCN has identified as far as possible correct digital information on World Heritage Site boundaries, through its newly created Geographical Information Systems office based in Cambridge.
42. Vulnerability assessment of World Heritage to the impacts of climate change is at final draft stage and it is hoped will be published via peer-reviewed literature. Workshop and action plan on World Heritage and climate change in Asia undertaken with support of Republic of Korea, Cultural Heritage Administration.

A.5. Periodic Reporting

43. Continued active participation in the second cycle of Periodic Reporting, as coordinated by regional desks of the World Heritage Centre, has been ensured.
44. Strong follow up activities within the Arab States Region, including a regional meeting of nature focal points and training for regional experts, in association with the Arab Regional Centre –WH has been ensured. Focal points for World Heritage maintained in both IUCN Africa Offices, with associated programmes of work, and in collaboration with the African World Heritage Fund.

A.6. Capacity Building for World Heritage

45. Continued support and development of activities and fundraising plans, jointly with ICCROM and in collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and ICOMOS. The support of Switzerland to this work, through the existing capacity building project, is gratefully acknowledged. A future larger programme is being developed and additional partners/contributions will be required. Item discussed under a separate item on the Committee agenda. Newsletter available.

A.7. Resource Manuals and Training Materials

46. Second edition of resource manual on World Heritage Nominations revised and published. Resource manual on Managing Natural World Heritage remains in production with the World Heritage Centre. It is anticipated this will be available before the Committee meeting.
47. IUCN remains committed to the agreed strategy to translate and disseminate the resource manuals as pdfs, and accompanied by appropriate training materials, and considers this is an essential strategy for all Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage

Centre to continue. IUCN will have a series of new training materials available by the 36th session to support the nominations and manuals regarding managing natural heritage.

A.8. International Assistance

48. All required requests reviewed and meetings of IA Panel attended.

A.9. Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value

49. All requested Statements of Outstanding Universal Value, according to the agreed priorities set by the Committee, have been reviewed. Information regarding the provision of funding for the drafting of Statements of Outstanding Universal Value from the LAC region has been requested from the World Heritage Centre and it is hoped these reviews will begin soon.

A.10. Thematic studies

50. Updated thematic study on biodiversity being undertaken with support from German Nature Conservation Agency, BfN, and aiming to be prepared by Summer 2012. Thematic study on criterion vii being undertaken with support from Australia, and aiming to be completed by November 2012. New thematic study on marine sites delayed but progress hoped for by 36th session, funded by IUCN. Some coordination with World Heritage Marine Programme needs to be confirmed.
51. Continued collaboration with ICOMOS, WHC, ICCROM regarding World Heritage and human rights. This is a very high priority for improved World Heritage processes.

A.11. Technical Meetings

52. Participation in requested technical meetings, noting the constraint on available resources.

A.12. IUCN Programme

53. In addition to advisory work, which has required significant IUCN contribution to ensure its delivery, there has been continued development of IUCN's Programme on World Heritage as previously reported to the 34th and 35th sessions, including sustaining regional focal points in Africa, providing training on nominations, communications, and IUCN report on State of World Heritage (now likely be launched in early 2013).
54. IUCN will feature World Heritage strongly at its 2012 World Conservation Congress to be held in Jeju, Republic of Korea (listed as a World Heritage Site) in September 2012. Ten workshops and training and other activities will be provided. A revised and updated IUCN World Heritage Programme 2013-16 will be launched at this event with current goals proposed as follows: a) IUCN World Heritage Advisory Body role is delivered effectively, leading to conservation and credibility gains for the *World Heritage Convention*; b) conservation status of World Heritage Sites is improved, threats are reduced and their improved and equitable management is achieved and recognised and c) Significant natural areas are supported to develop effective conservation strategies prior to consideration of their possible nomination to the World Heritage List. IUCN welcomes the opportunity to discuss its programme with interested parties.

IV. GENERAL JOINT COMMENT OF THE ADVISORY BODIES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

55. As requested by the 35th session of the World Heritage Committee, in Decision **35 COM 5B** (point 3) the Advisory Bodies provide this short general statement on the implementation of the World Heritage *Convention*. Although the Advisory Bodies welcome the continued progress in the implementation of the *Convention*, they would like to note four points, as a general comment. This short text is of necessity not a comprehensive statement on the *Convention*.
56. The Advisory Bodies consider that the main challenges facing the implementation of the World Heritage *Convention* are well set out in the External Auditor's Evaluation of the Global Strategy. They welcome the endorsement of this evaluation and the adoption of the Strategic Action Plan for the *Convention* by the General Assembly of the States Parties. They further consider that acting on the findings of the Evaluation, including through the creation and implementation of the Strategic Action Plan, should have the highest priority.
57. The Advisory Bodies note the emergence of general concerns regarding the continued trend for the Committee not to adhere to its own Operational Guidelines in some of its decisions, notably those on nominations. They consider that this trend represents a critical threat to the credibility and reputation of the *World Heritage Convention*, and, if continued, could result in decisions that are impossible to implement. The Advisory Bodies also note an on-going trend to focus on nominations to the detriment of other key *Convention* processes, in particular, the state of conservation of already existing World Heritage properties. They consider a reflection is needed, through the implementation of the External Auditor's Evaluation, on the means to achieve a balanced and credible World Heritage List. The resources available to the *World Heritage Convention* are becoming ever more stretched and the financial issues impacting UNESCO will also have implications for the *Convention*, including new financial challenges facing the World Heritage Fund. The Advisory Bodies are providing increasing levels of their own resources to meet shortfalls in available funding for their work in implementing the *Convention*, but there remain many gaps where the support of States Parties and other partners is required, for instance, for priority areas such as capacity building. The Advisory Bodies consider that there is further scope for improvements in efficiency in the implementation of the *Convention*. They note in particular that a shared strategy with the World Heritage Centre could be beneficial for fund-raising, as extra-budgetary resources will become increasingly important in the future.
58. Overall, the Advisory Bodies consider that the challenges facing the *Convention* need to be met with innovative thinking and realistic appraisal as to how, within what is likely to become a reducing budget for both the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, the great success of the *Convention* and the support that it has engendered might be harnessed to optimize its effectiveness.

V. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision: 36 COM 5B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/5B,

2. Recalling Decision **35 COM 5B** adopted at its 35th session (UNESCO, 2011),
3. Takes note of the reports of the Advisory Bodies (ICCROM, ICOMOS and IUCN) on their activities and expresses its gratitude for the efforts undertaken;
4. Welcomes the harmonization of the reports by the Advisory Bodies and the comments on the progress made and gaps identified for the implementation of the Convention.

**Joint summary table of the Advisory Bodies and the World Heritage Centre
on the activities and commitments (see Decision 35 COM 5B, point 3c)**

Activity	ICCROM	ICOMOS	IUCN	WHC
State of conservation activities	See document WHC-12/36.COM/5B para 3	See document WHC-12/36.COM/5B para 19-22	See document WHC-12/36.COM/5B para 38-42	See documents under item 7 jointly prepared by the Advisory Bodies and the Centre: WHC-12/36.COM/7A, 7Aadd WHC-12/36.COM/7B, 7Badd WHC-12/36.COM/7B, 7C http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc
Periodic Reporting	See document WHC-12/36.COM/5B para 4	See document WHC-12/36.COM/5B para 23	See document WHC-12/36.COM/5B para 43	See documents of the different regions under item 10 prepared by the Centre in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies http://whc.unesco.org/en/periodicreporting
Capacity Building	See document WHC-12/36.COM/5B para 5-10	See document WHC-12/36.COM/5B para 24-35	See document WHC-12/36.COM/5B para 45	See document WHC-12/36.COM/5A and WHC-12/36.COM/9B as well as http://whc.unesco.org/en/category2centres/
Resource Manuals	See document WHC-12/36.COM/5B para 7	See document WHC-12/36.COM/5B para 26	See document WHC-12/36.COM/5B para 46-47	See document WHC-12/36.COM/5A and http://whc.unesco.org/en/resourcemanuals
International Assistance	See document WHC-12/36.COM/5B para 11	See document WHC-12/36.COM/5B para 27	See document WHC-12/36.COM/5B para 48	See document WHC-12/36.COM/14 and WHC-12/36.COM/INF.14
Thematic Programmes / Thematic Studies	See document WHC-12/36.COM/5B para 12	See document WHC-12/36.COM/5B para 29-30	See document WHC-12/36.COM/5B para 50-51	See document WHC-12/36.COM/5D and 5E and http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities
Nominations	n.a.	See document WHC-12/36.COM/INF.8B.1	See document WHC-12/36.COM/INF.8B.2	See document WHC-12/36.COM/8B
World Heritage programme	http://www.iccrom.org/en/04coop_en/04_03whc_en.shtml	http://www.icomos.org/en/what-we-do/image-what-we-do/351-convention-du-patrimoine-mondial	http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/wcpa_worldheritage/	See document WHC-12/36.COM/5A and on the collaboration with other Conventions document WHC-12/36.COM/INF.5A
Public Information/	http://www.iccrom.org/	http://www.icomos.org/en/	http://www.iucn.org/	whc.unesco.org World Heritage Review http://whc.unesco.org/

Newsletters				en/review News: http://whc.unesco.org/en/news
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