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World Heritage

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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 6 of the Provisional Agenda: Progress report on the World Heritage
related category 2 centres**

SUMMARY

By its Decision **35 COM 6**, the Committee requested the World Heritage Centre to submit an updated report of activities of the World Heritage related Category 2 centres for examination at its 36th session in 2012. The General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention by its Resolution **18 GA 10** took note of this request., This updated report, as well as information on current and future activities, are contained in the present document .

Draft Decision: 36 COM 6, See Section II

I. PROGRESS REPORT

A. Main developments since the 35th Session of the Committee

1. Information on the rationale for the establishment of “category 2 centres under the auspices of UNESCO” related to World Heritage, as well as on the mandate and scope of activities of existing Centres, was provided in the progress report submitted to the Committee at its 35th session (Paris, 2011) (See Document WHC-11/35.COM/6).
2. At the same Session, the Committee adopted a new Strategy for Capacity Building (see Document WHC-11/35.COM/9B), which considers the significant potential of category 2 centres and attributes to them an important role. A specific report on the progress made in the implementation of this Strategy, including reference to the category 2 centres, is provided to the Committee under Document WHC-12/36.COM/9B.
3. In the meantime, the establishment of two additional category 2 centres was approved by the General Conference of UNESCO at its 36th Session in October/November 2011 (see Document 186 EX/14, Part II), bringing the total to eight. These are the *International Centre for Rock Art and the World Heritage Convention* (Spain); and the *International Research Centre on the Economics of Culture and World Heritage Studies* (Turin, Italy).
4. The eight category 2 centres related to World Heritage, in the order in which they were established by the General Conference of UNESCO, are:
 - a) Nordic World Heritage Foundation (NWHF, Norway) - 2003
 - b) African World Heritage Fund (AWHF, South Africa) - 2007
 - c) World Heritage Institute for Training and Research in Asia and the Pacific (WHITR-AP, China) - 2007
 - d) Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH, Bahrain) - 2009
 - e) Regional World Heritage Institute in Zacatecas (Mexico) - 2009
 - f) Regional Heritage Management Training Centre “Lucio Costa” (Brazil) - 2009
 - g) International Centre for Rock Art and the World Heritage Convention (Spain) – 2011
 - h) International Research Centre on the Economics of Culture and World Heritage Studies (Italy) - 2011
5. A second annual coordination meeting of all category 2 centres took place in Milan (Italy), on 22 and 23 January 2012, at the invitation of the newly approved Turin Centre. All eight category 2 centres related to World Heritage were present. A brief description of the outcomes of this Meeting is provided below.
6. Following this coordination meeting, each category 2 centre has provided a concise progress report including information on its mandate, the status of the establishment of its system of governance, as well as on recent and on-going activities. These reports are accessible through the web-page which, as requested by the Committee (Decision 35 COM 6, para 8), has been uploaded on the web-site of the World Heritage Centre, accessible online from: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/category2centres> . This web-page will function in the future as a platform for sharing of information among the category 2 centres and will be enriched with links to any relevant documentation.
7. Finally, an overall evaluation of category 2 centres was carried out by the UNESCO Internal Oversight Service (IOS) in 2011, which resulted in a number of findings and

recommendations. The evaluation by IOS, which will be presented to the Executive Board of UNESCO, showed how category 2 centres related to World Heritage stand out in many ways as a best practice within UNESCO, owing to the strong policy and strategic framework under which they operate as well as to their inter-institutional coordination and reporting system to the statutory organs of the Convention.

B. Second annual coordination meeting of category 2 centres related to World Heritage

8. The meeting gathered representatives of the eight existing category 2 centres related to World Heritage as well as of the Secretariat and the three Advisory Bodies. Building on the results of the first coordination meeting, which had been held in Bahrain in December 2010 (see Document WHC-11/35.COM/6), the main outcomes of this second meeting included:
 - a) The reaffirmation that Category 2 Centres on World Heritage should ensure that their strategies, programmes and activities are directly contributing to the goals and objectives of the *World Heritage Strategy for Capacity-Building* and in general to actions agreed in the framework of World Heritage statutory processes at global and regional levels, notably those resulting from decisions by the World Heritage Committee, by the General Assembly of States Parties and from the outcomes of Periodic Reporting exercises;
 - b) A strengthened coordination and cooperation among all Category 2 Centres, thanks also to bilateral and trilateral discussions organized on the side of the plenary sessions of the meeting, which resulted in a number of joint initiatives. Separate discussions are still on-going among the concerned institutions;
 - c) A more effective system of reporting through agreed formats, the designation of Focal Points for all Centres, the establishment of a web-page on the web-site of the World Heritage Centre, and the decision to develop, within one year, a Results Based Management (RBM) approach to planning and monitoring.
9. The full report of this second annual meeting of World Heritage related category 2 centres is available in English at the following web address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/category2centres>.

C. Mandate and scope of work of category 2 centres established since the 35th session of the Committee

C.1. International Centre for Rock Art and the World Heritage Convention (Spain)

10. The Centre has been established as an autonomous entity, led by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport. It will work as a platform bringing together various existing research institutes in Spain, spread all over the country, working in the area of rock art research and capacity building in World Heritage management. In terms of governance, the Centre will have a Board of Directors, an Executive Committee and an Advisory Committee. The Agreement for the official establishment of this Centre has not yet been signed by the Director-General of UNESCO, pending the finalization of the related administrative and legal processes.
11. The Centre has two strategic objectives to carry out its mission of fostering the preservation, management, research and knowledge of Rock Art and World Heritage:
 - a) Generating and disseminating scientific knowledge about rock art and developing specific tools for property conservation and management, with a special focus on the properties inscribed on the World Heritage List and the Tentative List, in addition to properties protected by national laws;

- b) Developing strategies and operating tools for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention for the management and preservation of properties.
- 12. The permanent principles to achieve these goals will be: international cooperation; research and capacity building; institutional cooperation and sensitizing young people towards heritage.
- 13. A number of meeting and activities have already been implemented by this new Centre. More details on its mission, structure and ongoing initiatives are available online from: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/category2centres> .

C.2. International Research Centre on the Economics of Culture and World Heritage Studies (Turin, Italy)

- 14. The Centre is established as an autonomous entity backed by several leading academic and higher education institutions, building on the existing Master Course “World Heritage at Work”, taught at the University of Turin, in collaboration between the Turin Polytechnic School and the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ITC-ILO). The Agreement for the official establishment of this Centre has not yet been signed by the Director-General of UNESCO, pending the finalization of the related administrative and legal processes.
- 15. The global objective of the proposed centre in Turin is to assist UNESCO in the implementation of the World Heritage Convention and its “culture and development” agenda. It places special emphasis on the management of World Heritage properties and the field of the economics of culture and urban economic development.
- 16. The Centre intends to act as a shared platform for training and research activities, exchange and sharing of experiences and practices, among the various academic and educational actors working in the field of the economics of culture and the management of UNESCO World Heritage properties.
- 17. Among the initial activities of the newly adopted category 2 centre were the hosting of the above-mentioned second annual coordination meeting of the category 2 centres related to World Heritage and the organization of an International Workshop on “World Heritage: Economic and Policy Issues” (24-25 January 2012, Turin, Italy).

II. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision: 36 COM 6

The World Heritage Committee,

- 1. *Having examined Document WHC-12/36.COM/6,*
- 2. *Recalling Decisions **34 COM 9C** and **35 COM 6** adopted at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010) and 35th session (Paris, 2011) respectively;*
- 3. *Welcomes the establishment of two new category 2 centres related to World Heritage in Spain and Italy as well as the progress made by all category 2 centres towards the establishment of their system of governance and the implementation of their activities;*
- 4. *Thanks the International Research Centre on the Economics of Culture and World Heritage Studies (Turin, Italy) for having hosted the second annual coordination meeting of category 2 centres related to World Heritage;*

5. Requests all category 2 centres related to World Heritage to ensure that their strategies, programmes and activities are directly contributing to the goals and objectives of the World Heritage Strategy for Capacity Building and in general to actions agreed in the framework of World Heritage statutory processes at global and regional levels, notably those resulting from decisions by the World Heritage Committee, by the General Assembly of States Parties and from the outcomes of Periodic Reporting exercises;
6. Further requests the World Heritage Centre to submit a progress report on the activities of the category 2 centres related to World Heritage for examination by the Committee at its 37th session in 2013.