

Concept Note

Caribbean Training Course in the Preparation of Nomination Dossiers 2012-2013

Rationale

The World Heritage Centre has designed the World Heritage Programme for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as a direct response to the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) and the adoption of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. This thematic programme aims to coordinate exchanges of information on the activities implemented as part of the Mauritius Strategy within the framework of the 1972 World Heritage Convention, in particular the sub-regional action plans for the Caribbean and the Pacific. It was adopted at the 29th session of the World Heritage Committee in Durban, South Africa, in 2005 (Decision 29 COM 5B). At its 33rd session in Sevilla, Spain (June 2009), the World Heritage Committee noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in the implementation of the World Heritage Programme for Small Island Developing States. The progress report concluded by stating that “SIDS share similar interests and concerns, such as marine and coastal management, impacts of climate change, and issues of sustainable development, and sharing information and experiences between the different regions is key to an improved implementation of the Convention. Ways of improving communication with access to information and assistance is needed to include all SIDS in the World Heritage network and regional capacity building programmes seem to be the way forward.”

Within the framework of the World Heritage Programme for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and following the CARICOM SIDS meeting held in Barbados in April 2011, the World Heritage Centre through the Japan Funds-in-Trust has developed a project on *Capacity Building to Support the Conservation of World Heritage Sites and Enhance Sustainable Development of Local Communities in Small Island Developing States* for the three SIDS regions in Africa, the Pacific and the Caribbean.

Activities under this project for the Caribbean SIDS will be carried out in line with the Caribbean Capacity Building Programme (CCBP) implemented by the UNESCO Offices in Havana and Kingston.

Objective and Activities

The objective is to strengthen professional capacities for the effective implementation of the 1972 World Heritage Convention and the participation of the Caribbean countries in the preparation and submission of nomination dossiers to the World Heritage Centre.

In the Caribbean SIDS, a results-oriented training course will be organized to strengthen professional capacities in preparing nomination dossiers and increase the number and quality of nominations of cultural and natural heritage sites, with a focus on *Sites of Memory* across the Caribbean, as suggested by the World Heritage Committee at its 33rd session in Sevilla, Spain in June 2009 (Decision 33 COM 5B).

Excerpt from Decision 33 COM 5B:

8. Requests furthermore the Director of the World Heritage Centre to identify extra budgetary funding for World Heritage activities in SIDS, in particular to further develop the Caribbean Capacity-Building Programme and to introduce a similar regional capacity-building programme for SIDS in the Africa and Pacific regions and the execution of more thematic studies particularly of the cultural land and seascapes, routes (trade of enslaved people) and environmental features of the Caribbean, African and Pacific Regions.

The Caribbean Training Course in the Preparation of Nomination Dossiers will be organized for professionals in the natural and cultural heritage fields, working for national institutions and will be carried out as follows:

1. Selection of participants from the Caribbean countries is done at the national level in consultation with the National Commissions for UNESCO in the respective countries. Participants selected should be part of the team to work on the priority *Sites of Memory* that the participating countries intend to nominate. The *Sites of Memory* are selected based on their potential for inscription and should ideally be on the country's Tentative List. The selection is also influenced by a proven commitment to a heritage site demonstrated through political support and protective measures in place.
2. A 10-day training course is organized in Kingston, Jamaica from **5-15 June 2012** based on the curriculum developed in the context of the existing Caribbean Capacity Building Programme (CCBP). Training modules are delivered by experienced training specialists in collaboration with World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Offices in Havana and Kingston. Participants are taken through the main topics related to the World Heritage nomination process. The principal aim is to take stock of what has been already identified and discussed previously in the context of the *Sites of Memory*, and to harmonize the various Tentative List submissions and approaches with the definition of a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value for all the *Sites of Memory* in the Caribbean.
3. Participants undertake fieldwork and start developing their nomination dossiers. This is done during a period of eight months (**June 2012 - February 2013**) following the training course in Kingston. Necessary guidance will be provided by the mentors, World Heritage Centre and the UNESCO Offices in Havana and Kingston. The nomination dossiers have to be completed according to the WHC format.
4. Participants are gathered again for a week long follow-up workshop in February 2013 with the objective to assess the preparation of the nomination dossiers in accordance with the overall planning and specific action plans drafted for the site under consideration. This follow-up workshop brings together all the active participants, mentors and also trainers to finalize the nomination dossiers that are well-advanced. During this workshop, the trainers, under the guidance of WHC, IUCN, ICOMOS and ICCROM, evaluate the completeness of the draft dossiers. The workshop only takes place once the fieldwork has been successfully completed by the participating States Parties.
5. The finalization of the nomination dossiers and their submission to WHC conclude the course process. It is expected that out of the proposals to be supported during the course a minimum of 40% of dossiers will be successfully developed and submitted to the WHC for examination.

Beneficiary Countries:

Member States: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, The Bahamas, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Associate Member States: British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Curacao and St. Maarten

Organizers: The World Heritage Centre in collaboration with the UNESCO Offices in Havana and Kingston, with the support of the Antigua and Barbuda National Commission for UNESCO.