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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-seventh session

**Phnom Penh, Cambodia
16 – 27 June 2013**

**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 2012-2013 from the 36th to 37th session of the World Heritage Committee as follows:

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

Draft Decision: 37 COM 5B, see point IV.

I. REPORT ON ICCROM ACTIVITIES

A.1. Introduction

1. Following the request of the World Heritage Committee, this brief report outlines the key areas of ICCROM's work on the World Heritage Convention for the period from June 2012 to March 2013. ICCROM support to the Committee during this period has been provided principally by Joseph King (Unit Director, Sites Unit), Gamini Wijesuriya (Project Manager, Sites Unit), and Elena Incerti Medici (Senior Administrative Assistant), with collaboration from other ICCROM staff, all under the direction of ICCROM Director-General, Stefano De Caro. Members of the ICCROM network also contribute to support these activities. In addition to its direct work on the Convention, ICCROM also has a programme within its own Programme and Budget entitled, "Improving Conservation and Management Practices through the World Heritage Convention" which helps to improve both conservation at World Heritage properties and to use knowledge developed within the World Heritage system to better conserve cultural heritage properties more generally.

A.2. 36th session of the World Heritage Committee

2. ICCROM attendance at the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee was led by the Director General, Stefano De Caro, and included Joseph King, and Gamini Wijesuriya. Also part of the delegation were Mounir Bouchenaki in the role of Special Advisor to the Director General, and Maria Consuelo Heuser, an intern from Cottbus University. ICCROM fully participated within the limits of its role within the Convention, and in particular related to the issue of Capacity Building. In addition, ICCROM participated in a number of meetings and activities in preparation of 37th session of the Committee including meetings of the Advisory Bodies and World Heritage Centre and World Heritage Information meetings in Paris.

A.3. Nominations to the World Heritage List

3. Not applicable to ICCROM's role with the World Heritage Convention.

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

4. ICCROM has been fully involved in the preparation of State of Conservation (SOC) reports for the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee. Towards this end, ICCROM led in the drafting of approximately 7 reports, and commented on others prepared by ICOMOS and the World Heritage Centre. ICCROM also participated in the drafting week for SOC reports that took place in March 2013. ICCROM participated in a joint reactive monitoring mission to the World Heritage property of the Royal Palaces of Abomey in Benin.

A.5. Periodic Reporting

5. ICCROM continues to fully contribute to the Periodic Reporting process in all regions in cooperation with the relevant regional units of the World Heritage Centre. This includes:
 - a) attendance at regional and sub-regional meetings during all phases of the Periodic Reporting process;

- b) working with regional partners on the development of regional or sub-regional capacity building strategies based on the results of the Periodic Reporting process;
- c) implementation of specific capacity building activities both during the process (for example development of retrospective Statements of OUV), and after the reports are completed (for example, participation in a course on nominations that took place in Bali for the Asia-Pacific region).

A.6. Capacity Building for World Heritage

6. ICCROM has continued to collaborate with IUCN, ICOMOS, and the World Heritage Centre on capacity building issues, and in particular in the implementation of the World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy. The main area of activity during the past year has been through a joint project administered by IUCN and ICCROM with generous funding from the government of Switzerland. Activities within this programme have included 3 workshops to train professionals in World Heritage issues with the aim of strengthening the regional networks of the Advisory Bodies. Through the programme, a participatory evaluation was also carried out at the Cottbus University World Heritage Studies Programme.
7. Another important capacity building activity was the implementation of a 2-week course on Heritage Impact Assessments held in Lijiang, China in collaboration with WHITR-AP and ICOMOS. The issue of HIA has become more and more important to the World Heritage Committee as a tool for dealing with the problems of development at World Heritage properties. It is hoped that this course can be repeated in the future to bring the necessary skills to use HIA to a wider range of professionals. ICCROM also conducted a workshop on management of World Heritage properties in Myanmar and a second workshop on Disaster Risk Management in Viet Nam.
8. ICCROM continues to update its training database, events database, and classifieds section of its website as a means of ensuring the dissemination of information on World Heritage capacity building and other activities to a wider audience.
9. ICCROM works with Category 2 Centres and other regional institutions to strengthen capacity building at the regional and sub-regional levels. This work includes ongoing partnerships with the AWHF, WHITR-AP, ARC-WH to name a few. Partnerships include sitting on governing or advisory boards, providing advice on the development of capacity building strategies at the regional and sub-regional levels, and partnership in the implementation of some activities. ICCROM attended the 3rd annual meeting of the Category 2 Centres which took place in Norway in March 2013, and a consultative meeting for the establishment of a Category 2 Centre in India in September 2012.
10. Finally, ICCROM was responsible for the development and implementation of several World Heritage Orientation Sessions for Committee members including one held in conjunction with the 36th session of the Committee and a second held in January 2013 in Paris. For more information on capacity building activities, see working document WGC-13/37.COM/6.

A.7. Resource Manuals

11. ICCROM has continued its work on the new resource manual on Management Systems for Cultural Heritage Properties. A first draft was developed in 2011 and sent out for comment to the other Advisory Bodies and World Heritage Centre. Since the 36th session of the Committee, a revised draft was finished and sent out for further comment. The text is currently being copy-edited and it is foreseen that an electronic first edition will be ready in time for the 37th session of the Committee.

A.8. International Assistance

12. ICCROM reviewed and advised on approximately 30 International Assistance requests made by States Parties and participated in 3 International Assistance Panel meetings from June 2012 to January 2013. A fourth panel is scheduled for April 2013.

A.9. Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value

13. Not applicable to ICCROM's role with the World Heritage Convention.

A.10. Thematic Studies

14. ICCROM is not involved directly with the development of Thematic Studies.

A.11. Technical Meetings

15. ICCROM has participated in a wide range of technical meetings during the past year, such as the meeting on Visual Integrity hosted by India in March 2013. Of particular note were the meetings associated with the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention including meetings in Buyeo, Korea and Toyama, Japan, and the final meeting celebrating the 40th anniversary held in Kyoto, Japan. ICCROM was also a very active participant in the meeting called by the Director General of UNESCO on the theme, World Heritage Convention: Looking Ahead. ICCROM considers this meeting is an important step in renewing a positive environment for collaboration and exchange between the Advisory Bodies and States Parties to the Convention.

II. REPORT ON ICOMOS ACTIVITIES

A.1. Introduction

16. ICOMOS reaffirms its commitment to serve the World Heritage Committee in spite of the challenges that the World Heritage Convention is facing. It continues to develop activities related to the implementation of the Convention with the help of its Working Group which meets three times a year to ensure that the work submitted to the Committee meets the highest performance criteria, to improve working procedures, and to review the principles for applying the mandate entrusted to it (<http://www.icomos.org/fr/notre-action/participation-aux-conventions-internationales/convention-du-patrimoine-mondial>).
17. ICOMOS continues to work to ensure a broad geo-cultural representation within its Working Group, the World Heritage Panel, and the experts who are responsible for the evaluation of nominations and monitoring of the state of conservation of World Heritage properties.
18. ICOMOS confirms its willingness to strengthen the dialogue with States Parties, particularly with regard to the upstream processes and advisory missions.
19. ICOMOS acknowledges with appreciation the spirit of collaboration that prevails with UNESCO and the States Parties but equally the work that is carried out jointly with ICCROM, IUCN and other partner organizations.

A.2. 36th session of the World Heritage Committee (St Petersburg, June-July 2012)

20. ICOMOS was represented at the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee (St. Petersburg, 24 June - 6 July 2012) by a strong delegation. The Advisory Body assisted in the preparation of the working documents for the Committee with the World Heritage Centre, and at the orientation session of the World Heritage Committee with ICCROM and IUCN.
21. It presented its work on the evaluation of nominations of cultural and mixed properties, on the Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value, and on the monitoring of the state of conservation of properties. It contributed to discussions on other items on the agenda: revision of the Operational Guidelines, Sustainable Development, evaluation of the Global Strategy and Strategic Action Plan, and pilot projects for the upstream processes.

A.3. Nominations to the World Heritage List

22. For the 2013 cycle, ICOMOS evaluated 41 properties nominated for inscription, including 21 new nominations to the World Heritage List in accordance with the Operational Guidelines, 4 referred nominations, 2 deferred nominations, 2 extensions, 12 minor modifications / creation of buffer zones, which are to be presented at the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee.
23. Overall, ICOMOS notes that the nominations are becoming increasingly complex, and this is sometimes at the expense of clarity or coherence of the dossiers. Some nominations could benefit from a longer preparation time.
24. ICOMOS has provided follow up to the decisions of the World Heritage Committee in relation to pilot projects for upstream processes identified in consultation with the States Parties. Additional resources will be needed to develop this activity.

A.4. Monitoring the State of Conservation of World Heritage properties

25. ICOMOS has prepared part of the reports on the monitoring of the state of conservation of cultural and mixed properties to be presented at the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee. It will have carried out and prepared reports for 13 Reactive Monitoring missions for the 37th session.
26. At the request of the States Parties, ICOMOS has also carried out 5 Advisory missions.
27. In addition, the World Heritage Centre consults on a regular basis throughout the year with the Advisory Body on problems with or threats to properties inscribed on the World Heritage List. Additional research work has been carried out, notably via ICOMOS networks, documents have been examined and written reports have been sent to the World Heritage Centre.
28. Monitoring of the State of Conservation of properties is an essential activity of the World Heritage Convention and additional resources should be made available for its implementation.

A.5. Periodic Monitoring

29. The Advisory Body has participated in activities coordinated by the regional units for the second cycle of Periodic Reporting for the Latin America and Caribbean region and Europe, and the implementation of action plans for the Arab States and Asia-Pacific region.

A.6. Capacity building

30. ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN are collaborating with the Swiss Government in the implementation of the three-year project to build capacity within the framework of World Heritage. Within this context, regional workshops have been organised, aimed at strengthening and diversifying the network of expertise of the Advisory Body.
31. ICOMOS has continued its collaboration with the Category 2 Centres for the setting up of their programmes.

A.7. Manuals

32. ICOMOS has contributed to the preparation of the manual on the management of cultural World Heritage sites, under the leadership of ICCROM.

A.8. International Assistance

33. ICOMOS has considered all the requests for International Assistance for cultural and mixed properties that have been submitted to it and participated in the panels that have examined these requests.

A.9. Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value

34. ICOMOS has studied and reviewed all the Retrospective Statements of OUV which have been submitted to it in accordance with the timetable for this set by the World Heritage Committee. The review of the statements from Latin America and the Caribbean is finished, as is that for part of the statements for Europe and North America.

A.10. Thematic Studies

35. ICOMOS has contributed to the Thematic Study on the application of criterion vii carried out by IUCN.

A.11. Technical meetings

36. ICOMOS has participated in many technical meetings organized by the World Heritage Centre.
37. The meeting called by the Director-General of UNESCO "Reflection on the Future of the World Heritage Convention: Thinking Ahead" in October 2012 has been at the heart of discussions about the issues and challenges faced by the World Heritage Convention. ICOMOS's contribution is available via the link: <http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/events/documents/event-957-56.pdf>. The outcomes of this meeting will be implemented in the light of the Strategic Action Plan for the Convention.
38. The year 2012 was marked by celebration of the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention. The many forums for reflection triggered by this culminated in the closing ceremony in Kyoto in November 2012.

III. REPORT ON IUCN ACTIVITIES

A.1. Introduction

39. In view of the budgetary pressures on the World Heritage Convention's documentation it has been requested IUCN's report to the Committee is very short and synthetic this year. Information on IUCN's work on the World Heritage Convention is available at the following address: www.iucn.org/worldheritage to complement the brief report below, and IUCN is pleased to provide further information on request on any aspect of its work.
40. IUCN also notes that the World Conservation Congress (WCC) had a very full programme of events on World Heritage, and adopted two motions on World Heritage at its quadrennial meeting held in September 2012, and forms the specific basis for the prioritisation of World Heritage within the new IUCN Programme. Links to these documents which are available in IUCN's three official languages of English, French and Spanish are available below. IUCN Motions on World Heritage (available via links from the following page): <http://www.iucnworldconservationcongress.org/membersassembly/resolutions/> and IUCN Programme: http://www.iucn.org/what/global_programme/.
41. IUCN is also pleased that a past Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee, Mr Zhang Xinsheng has been elected to be the new President of IUCN at the WCC meeting. We also welcome that Mr Ernesto Enkerlin was elected as the Chair of IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), and Mr Cyril Kormos as the new IUCN WCPA vice-chair on World Heritage.
42. IUCN notes that the Convention is facing increasingly critical challenges to its performance and relevance, as well as its budget, as detailed in its paper noted under item A.10 below. In line with the above IUCN motions and the IUCN Programme 2013-16, the work of its World Heritage Programme is focused on complementing its advisory role to the World Heritage Committee with proactive programmes of support to States Parties, and to the large body of IUCN's members and partners, to engage in the Convention. Priorities amongst this work include the (a) development of new and proactive means to support World Heritage Site conservation, including new monitoring processes to report on the State of Natural World Heritage, (b) proactive initiatives to promote work on possible priorities for World Heritage nominations (in line with the spirit of the "upstream process", (c) strengthening of IUCN's regional capacity and diversity in both its secretariat, and its expert networks, (d) work on the consideration of rights based approaches in relation to World Heritage Sites, and the benefits they provide to local communities and indigenous peoples and (e) ensuring the relevance of World Heritage to wider conservation and sustainable development initiatives, notably in relation to the contribution to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and its agreed Programme of Work on Protected Areas.
43. IUCN acknowledges with thanks the strong and growing partnerships with UNESCO, ICCROM, ICOMOS and also with a range of partners and a number of States Parties to the Convention that both enables the content, and also assists in providing resources to support this growing effort to achieve positive results through the World Heritage Convention. IUCN also acknowledges with thanks the very significant volunteered efforts of its members and expert commissions, without whose support our work would not be possible.

A.2. 36th session of the World Heritage Committee

44. IUCN attended the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee with a diverse and effective delegation and contributed fully in all relevant items of the Committee's business.

A.3. Nominations to the World Heritage List

45. IUCN completed evaluations of all natural and mixed nominations, and presented its recommendations to the 36th Session of the World Heritage Committee in line with the requirements of the Operational Guidelines. This work is also on track for the 37th Session. Commentary on these matters is provided in the introduction to IUCN's evaluation report.

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

46. IUCN led the drafting of the majority of SOC reports on natural properties presented to the 36th Session, and to be presented at the 37th Session of the World Heritage Committee.
47. As reported to previous sessions of the Committee, IUCN is also continuing to develop a new consistent and transparent, online system for monitoring and identifying the management needs for all natural World Heritage Sites. The results of this work will be discussed at the Committee and will be published in 2014, and will also be carried forward as a key input to the IUCN World Parks Congress to be held in November 2014.

A.5. Periodic Reporting

48. IUCN has contributed fully to the continued programme of Periodic Reporting in all regions, and this input and further plans will be considered under the relevant items of Committee agenda. Strengthening IUCN's regional work on World Heritage is a priority that has been supported in 2012-13 by the State Party of Germany, and this support is acknowledged with thanks.

A.6. Capacity Building for World Heritage

49. All funding for capacity building by IUCN was cut in 2012 due to budgetary restraints in UNESCO, and this is a key concern to be discussed during the Committee meeting. With the welcome support of the State Party of Switzerland, IUCN and ICCROM have continued to deliver capacity building focused on the strengthening and diversification of advisory body expert networks, supporting leading World Heritage training institutions, and engaging in support of Category 2 Centres. This project will conclude in April 2013, and it is hoped that further support from States Parties will enable continued and extended activity linked to the agreed Strategy for World Heritage Capacity Building.

A.7. Resource Manuals

50. IUCN's contributions to the Resource Manuals on Nominations and Managing Natural World Heritage have been delivered in full, and IUCN is pleased to see the use and engagement which is resulting from these documents, and the efforts of a range of parties to translate and disseminate these documents.

A.8. International Assistance

51. IUCN reviewed and advised on all International Assistance (IA) requests as required, and participated in the IA Panel.

A.9. Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value

52. IUCN has completed the review of all retrospective Statements of OUV requested in line with the agreed priorities of the World Heritage Committee.

A.10. Thematic studies

53. IUCN has completed a study of the application of criterion (vii), with the support of the State Party of Australia. IUCN anticipates completion, before the 37th session of the Committee, of thematic studies on Terrestrial Biodiversity, supported by the State Party of Germany, Marine World Heritage, supported at IUCN's own expense, and an analysis of the natural heritage aspects of World Heritage cultural landscapes, supported by IUCN WCPA.

A.11. Technical Meetings

54. IUCN has attended, and helped organise, a wide range of technical meetings on request, as reported during the agenda of the Committee. It notes two highlights during 2012. Firstly, the meeting invited by the Director General of UNESCO in October 2012 on the World Heritage Convention: Looking Ahead. This meeting raised many of the current and real concerns and issues about the Convention and IUCN's contribution to it is available at the following link: https://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/a_future_for_world_heritage_iucn_non_paper_september_2012.pdf.
55. IUCN notes the importance of following up on this meeting, as part of the response the external evaluation of the Convention by UNESCO's external auditors in order to develop an effective, prioritised programme of work to address the challenges raised.
56. Secondly, the events of the 40th Anniversary and in particular the excellent closing event in Kyoto in November 2012 provided exceptional opportunities to reflect on both challenges and the opportunities facing the Convention in its fifth decade.

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

57. 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.
58. The Advisory Bodies would first note that the main objective of the Convention, as embodied in its full name, "Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage" is the protection of the world's heritage of outstanding universal value. While the first step in this protection is necessarily the identification of the heritage and its placement of the World Heritage List, its ongoing protection should be the priority of all actors within the World Heritage system.
59. In order to facilitate this protection across the system, it is necessary for good communication and the exchange of ideas and viewpoints. Towards this end, the Advisory Bodies welcomed the meeting called by the Director General of UNESCO in October of 2012 on the theme, "The World Heritage Convention: Thinking Ahead". This

meeting provided a forum for constructive dialog between States Parties and the Advisory Bodies and brought to light many issues of concern and innovative ideas for the future implementation of the World Heritage Convention. The papers presented by the Advisory Bodies and States Parties can be found at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/events/957> and should be taken as a reference as the dialogue continues into the future.

60. The Advisory Bodies would further like to call attention to the priorities set out in the External Auditor's Evaluation of the Global Strategy. They reiterate the need for all actors to work towards the implementation of the recommendations of this report, and in particular for the adherence to the Operational Guidelines in the decision-making process.
61. An additional area of concern for the Advisory Bodies is the reduction of resources available for carrying out their work. While the number of properties on the World Heritage List continues to grow, and the issues related to their conservation become ever more complex, the Advisory Bodies are facing a situation whereby it is difficult to carry out the work expected of them with the resources at their disposal. They look forward to working closely with the World Heritage Committee and World Heritage Centre to look for ways to expand the resource base available to carry out their mandated work, and respond to the requested support for the States Parties to the Convention.
62. To conclude, the Advisory Bodies would like to express their hope for a continued fruitful dialogue amongst State Parties, the World Heritage Committee, the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies, and other heritage partners. Only through such an ongoing dialogue with all actors in the system can we reach a common understanding of the most effective ways to implement the Convention in the future.

IV. DRAFT DECISION

Draft Decision: 37 COM 5B

The World Heritage Committee,

1. *Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/5B,*
2. *Recalling Decision **36 COM 5B** adopted at its 36th session (Saint-Petersburg, 2012),*
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.*