



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

Organisation
des Nations Unies
pour l'éducation,
la science et la culture

World Heritage

37 COM

WHC-13/37.COM/10C

Paris, 3 May 2013

Original: English / French

**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 10 of the Provisional Agenda: Periodic Reports

10C: Progress report on Periodic Reporting in all other regions

SUMMARY

This document contains a summary of follow-up activities of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting for: Asia and the Pacific (see Section I), Africa (see Section II), and the Arab States (see Section III).

Draft Decisions:

37 COM 10C.1 see Section I;

37 COM 10C.2 see Section II;

37 COM 10C.3 see Section III.

I. FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES ON THE SECOND CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

A. Follow-up activities

1. At its 36th session (Saint Petersburg, 2012), the World Heritage Committee endorsed the report on the second cycle of Periodic Reporting in Asia and the Pacific and the regional Action Plans prepared by the focal points during the meetings in Suwon, Indonesia for Asia (<http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/activities/documents/activity-682-1.pdf>) and in Apia, Samoa for the Pacific (<http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/activities/documents/activity-682-2.pdf>). Subsequently, a number of activities have been organised to implement **Decision 36 COM 10A** in cooperation between States Parties, the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO Field Offices, and the Advisory Bodies.
2. The results of the Periodic Reporting exercise were published under the title "Understanding World Heritage in Asia and the Pacific: The Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting 2010-2012" (World Heritage Paper Series no. 35), accompanied by an interactive DVD, thanks to the contribution by the Government of Japan. It was launched at the closing event of the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention in Kyoto, Japan, in November 2012, and copies were widely disseminated to the Permanent Delegations, National Commissions, focal points, and site managers in the region.
3. In December 2012, a Sub-regional Workshop for the Preparation of Nomination Dossiers for World Heritage Inscription and Development of Management Plans was organised in Bali, Indonesia, as a follow-up to the Suwon Action Plan, thanks to the contribution by the Government of Indonesia. The workshop gathered focal points and site managers of seven States Parties in South-East Asia and Timor Leste, which is yet to be a State Party as well as representatives of the Advisory Bodies, international resource persons, UNESCO Field Offices and the World Heritage Centre. The progress made at the national level as a follow-up to Periodic Reporting was also reported at the workshop.
4. Several States Parties reported to the World Heritage Centre that they have either adopted the Suwon Action Plan or developed a national action plan, based on the Suwon Action Plan that was agreed at the regional level. Some States Parties are in the process of officially adopting action plans by the government.
5. In the Pacific, the publication "World Heritage in a Sea of Islands: Pacific 2009 Programme" (World Heritage Paper Series no. 34) was prepared thanks to the contribution made by the Government of Australia. The publication, as well as the Pacific Heritage Hub sponsored by Australia and the University of South Pacific, was launched in an official event in Suva, Fiji, in February 2013. The Pacific Heritage Hub will facilitate information sharing among States Parties in the Pacific and strengthening heritage management capacity in the region.
6. In line with Decision 36 COM 10A, the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITRAP), a Category 2 Centre under the auspices of UNESCO, was encouraged to take a leading role in developing the regional capacity building strategy and associated programmes for Asia and the Pacific. A questionnaire was designed to ascertain priorities in the region with an aim to design and implement relevant programmes to be provided by WHITRAP. The questionnaire was disseminated in the region in July 2012 with support from the World Heritage Centre and ICCROM. This activity aims to strengthen capacities in Asia and the Pacific through synergizing regional resources to respond to specific needs and preparing a roadmap for integrated capacity building programmes in the region.

B. Draft Decision 37 COM 10C.1

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/10C,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 10A**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint Petersburg, 2012),
3. Welcomes the progress made in the follow-up of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting in Asia and the Pacific;
4. Thanks the Government of Indonesia for its contribution to the organization of a sub-regional workshop for the follow-up of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting;
5. Also thanks the World Heritage Institute of Training and Research for the Asia and the Pacific Region (WHITRAP), the UNESCO Category 2 Centre for its contribution to the implementation of integrated capacity-building activities for the follow-up to the second cycle of Periodic Reporting;
6. Calls upon States Parties to actively implement the Regional Action Plans and also encourages them to intensify their contributions to the implementation of follow-up activities while working closely with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
7. Requests the World Heritage Centre to present a progress report at its 38th session in 2014.

II. FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES ON THE SECOND CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING FOR AFRICA

A. Follow-up activities

1. At its 36th session (Saint Petersburg, 2012), the World Heritage Committee endorsed the report on the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Africa Region and the regional Action Plan. Subsequently, a number of activities have been organized to implement Decision **36 COM 10A** in cooperation with States Parties, the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO Field Offices, and the Advisory Bodies. An update on the status of implementation of the Action Plan 2012 – 2017 for the Africa Region can be found on the following link: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/africa/>.
2. The following activities were undertaken within the framework of the 2012-2017 Action Plan for Africa and its Regional Capacity Building Programme:
 - a) A three-year USD 2,250,000 cultural heritage programme entitled “Implementation Programme of Second Periodic Report in Africa” financed by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF), the World Heritage Centre, and the Nordic World Heritage Foundation (NWHF) is currently being implemented by the AWHF in close collaboration with the World Heritage Centre and the NWHF. The following activities have been undertaken for cultural sites:
 - i) Methodology and Planning workshop, South Africa (October 2012);
 - ii) Risk-preparedness Training Workshop for francophone countries, Abomey, Benin (March - April 2013);

- iii) Risk-preparedness Training Workshop in Zimbabwe, Harare for Anglophone countries (May 2013);
 - iv) Internship programme at AWHF, the School of African Heritage (EPA) and the Centre for Heritage Development in Africa (CHDA) (March-May 2013).
- b) In the framework of the 1.5 million USD “Africa Nature Programme,” launched in October 2012 to improve the management effectiveness of the natural World Heritage sites in Africa through targeted capacity building and knowledge sharing, several projects have been implemented. These projects are being implemented by the World Heritage Centre, the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the AWHF, and African institutions in charge of natural heritage. Financial partners include the Governments of Flanders (Belgium) and Spain and the UNDP/Small Grants Programme. The following activities have been undertaken for natural sites:
- i) Risk preparedness workshop for francophone countries at the Djoudj National Bird Sanctuary, Senegal (November 2012);
 - ii) Workshop on the Climate Change Programme, Nairobi, Kenya (February 2013);
 - iii) Risk preparedness workshop for Anglophone countries, South Africa (May 2013).

A comprehensive yearly programme document has been developed to ensure a coherent and strategic implementation of activities in natural heritage sites can be found on the following link: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/944/>.

3. On the occasion of the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, over 300 delegates, including 16 African Ministers of Culture, Tourism, Environment and Home Affairs as well as representatives from the African Union, the AWHF and experts in cultural and natural heritage actively participated in a high-level conference on the theme of “Living with World Heritage in Africa” from 26 to 29 September 2012 in Gauteng, South Africa. This conference, which is considered the largest regional celebration of the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention, provided a platform to discuss experiences with World Heritage, role of communities, challenges and opportunities in achieving sustainable development while protecting and conserving natural and cultural World Heritage properties in Africa. The conclusions and recommendations from this conference provided the basis for the Second African Position Paper on World Heritage, which the region’s State Parties intend to propose for adoption by the African Union and the World Heritage Committee and submitted to the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee.
4. “African World Heritage: A Remarkable Diversity”, the first bilingual (French/English) publication on World Heritage sites in the Africa Region, was published in October 2012 thanks to generous financial support from the Government of Switzerland. Showcasing the 86 World Heritage properties in the 32 States Parties with detailed presentations (including maps and photos) on select sites, the goal of this publication is to raise awareness about the rich and diverse sites currently inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in the Africa region and the conservation issues they are facing. Furthermore, it captures the full story of this heritage and the local communities who are its caretakers. This publication has been distributed to site managers and experts, and a special edition was given to State Parties at the 40th Anniversary celebration of the Convention in Kyoto. A second publication of the Synthesis Report of the Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting for World Heritage in the Africa Region is currently under preparation and will be published as part of the World Heritage Paper Series later this year and submitted to the World Heritage Committee at its 38th session.

5. As requested in Decision **36 COM 10D**, State Parties have started submitting their National Plans to implement, in particular the World Heritage Centre has received National Plans from Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Botswana.

B. Draft Decision 37 COM 10C.2

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-13/37.COM/10C,
2. Recalling Decision **36 COM 10A**, adopted at its 36th session (Saint Petersburg, 2012),
3. Welcomes the progress made in the follow-up of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Africa Region;
4. Thanks the Government of South Africa and the UNESCO Category 2 Centre, the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) for financing and organizing the 40th anniversary conference on World Heritage and Sustainable Development; and for contributing to the implementation of integrated capacity-building activities for the follow-up to the second cycle of Periodic Reporting;
5. Also thanks the Governments of Norway, Flanders (Belgium), Spain and UNDP for their financial contribution to workshops carried-out in the framework of the implementation of the 2012-2017 Action Plan for Africa and its Regional Capacity Building Programme;
6. Further thanks the Government of Switzerland for generously supporting the publication of the first publication on World Heritage sites in Africa: "African World Heritage: A Remarkable Diversity";
7. Calls upon States Parties to financially and technically support the implementation of the Regional Action Plan (2012-2017) through follow-up activities with the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies;
8. Reiterates its request to State Parties to submit their national plans and budgets, which should be drawn up in accordance with the Management and Conservation Plans of the properties, in order to protect their Outstanding Universal Value;
9. Further reminds States Parties which have not already done so to submit their Retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value by **1 February 2014** at the latest, as well as clarifications on boundaries by **1 December 2013** at the latest;
10. Encourages States Parties to intensify their contributions to the AWHF while working closely with the Fund to improve the implementation of the World Heritage Convention in the Africa region;
11. Requests the World Heritage Centre, in collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, and with the support of States Parties to continue its efforts to coordinate and implement the Regional Capacity Building Programme as per the Action Plan 2012-2017;
12. Also requests the State Parties in consultation with the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, to pay special attention to the management of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger due to armed conflict;

13. *Further requests the World Heritage Centre to present a progress report on the implementation of the Action Plan for the Africa region at its 38th session in 2014.*

III. FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES ON THE SECOND CYCLE OF PERIODIC REPORTING FOR ARAB STATES

A. Follow-up activities

1. The second cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Arab States ended in 2010 and was welcomed by the World Heritage Committee at its 34th session (Brasilia, 2010). During its 35th session (Paris, 2011), the Committee examined the Regional Programme elaborated by the Arab States with the support of the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, based on the results of the Periodic Reports.
2. Following the Committee's Decision **35 COM 10C.3**, the World Heritage Centre invited the States Parties to designate Natural Heritage Focal Points. The latter met in Amman (Jordan) from 6 to 8 December 2011 for a regional workshop aiming at defining priorities for the reinforcement of the conservation of the Natural World Heritage in the Arab States.
3. The Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), established as a Category 2 centre under the auspices of UNESCO by decision of the general Conference at its 35th session (Paris, 2009), started its activities in 2012 (see document WHC-13/37 COM/6), in particular the very fruitful collaboration with the Arab States Unit of the World Heritage Centre for the implementation of the Regional Programme. At its first meeting, on 28 April 2012, the Governing Board of the ARC-WH approved the financing of a series of seven activities for a total amount of USD 204,968 in view of the reinforcement of the implementation of the Convention in the region. All activities described hereafter have been financed by the ARC-WH.
4. A training workshop was organized at the World Heritage Centre from 8 to 11 October 2012 at the attention of five experts from the region, selected on the basis of their participation in the training workshop organized in November 2011 in Bahrain by the Advisory Bodies, in the framework of the capacity building programme on World Heritage. The objective of the workshop was to have the experts benefiting from a thorough training on the Convention's mechanisms so they become resource persons on which the States Parties and the World Heritage Centre could rely for future activities. Four of these experts are now involved in activities relating to the preparation of nomination files.
5. A regional meeting of the Focal Points for cultural and natural heritage was held at the ARC-WH's premises, in Bahrain, in December 2012. A new work formula was proposed to the Focal Points consisting in their participation in working groups on the themes of the Regional Programme, based on the priorities of their countries. The objective was that the participants draft projects to be further developed by the World Heritage Centre and presented to the second meeting of the Governing Board of the ARC-WH. The Focal Points were assisted by the World Heritage Centre, the UNESCO Offices in Beirut, Cairo, Doha and Iraq, ICOMOS and IUCN, as well as the staff of the ARC-WH and the five experts having been trained at the World Heritage Centre in October 2012. The objective is now to hold this regional meeting at the end of every year in order to reinforce the exchange between the Focal Points and the cooperation between the States Parties, the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies and the ARC-WH.
6. The Governing Board of the ARC-WH, which held its meeting on 12 December 2012, examined the eleven project proposals prepared by the Focal Points during their Regional Meeting and approved them for a total amount of USD 273,984.

7. An expert meeting was organized by the World Heritage Centre at UNESCO Headquarters on 19 and 20 December 2012, in the framework of the launching of an initiative aiming at safeguarding the modern urban and architectural heritage of the Arab world. Two follow-up meetings are foreseen in 2013 in order to further develop this initiative.
8. On 14 February 2013, the Governing Board of the ARC-WH decided to support the World Heritage Cities Programme and the application of the Recommendation concerning the Historic Urban Landscape, particularly in the Arab States.

B. Draft Decision 37 COM 10C.3

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document **WHC-13/37 COM/10C**,
2. Recalling Decision **35 COM 10C.3**, adopted at its 35th session (Brasilia, 2011),
3. Takes note of the progress accomplished in the follow-up of the second cycle of Periodic Reporting in the Arab States;
4. Commends the States Parties of the Arab Region for their commitment and thanks especially all focal points for their effective participation and involvement;
5. Notes with satisfaction the designation of focal points for natural heritage related issues and requests the States Parties which have not yet done so to designate a focal point for nature;
6. Encourages the States Parties to follow the recommendation of the Rabat meeting regarding the establishment of national entities for World Heritage;
7. Thanks the Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), based in Bahrain, for its commitment and its important financial support to projects aiming at developing the implementation of the Convention in the Arab States and invites the latter to reinforce their cooperation with the Regional Centre;
8. Reiterates its request to the Arab States Parties to submit the remaining retrospective Statements of Outstanding Universal Value, no later than **1 February 2014**, and boundary clarifications for their properties, no later than **1 December 2013**.