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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 19 of the Provisional Agenda: Provisional Agenda of the 19th session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention (UNESCO, 2013)

INF.19. Draft Report of the World Heritage Committee on its activities for the 19th session of the General Assembly of States Parties (UNESCO, 2013)

SUMMARY

This document provides the Committee with the draft report to be presented to the 19th session of the General Assembly and to the 37th session of the General Conference, as per Article 29.3 of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. The report contains information concerning the main activities and decisions taken by the World Heritage Committee since the 18th session of the General Assembly of States Parties held on 7-9 November 2011.

Information relating to the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee will be included in the present document after the closure of this session. The report will be included as one of the "statutory reports of UNESCO's intergovernmental committees and councils submitted to the General Conference, and the reports of governmental, regional and international conferences" (37 C/REP/____) and will be made available in the six official languages of UNESCO. It will not require a decision on the part of the General Conference.

I. Overview and structure of this document

1. This document is intended to provide the UNESCO General Conference with information regarding the main activities and decisions taken by the World Heritage Committee since the 18th General Assembly of States Parties (7-9 November 2011) in the implementation of the *Convention*.
2. In order to better present the varied information contained in this document, the main activities and decisions of the World Heritage Committee have been grouped according to its Strategic Objectives. The Strategic Objectives, adopted by the Committee at its 26th session (Budapest, 2002), are the following:
 - a) Strengthen the **Credibility** of the World Heritage List
 - b) Ensure the effective **Conservation** of the World Heritage properties
 - c) Promote the development of effective **Capacity-building** in States Parties
 - d) Increase public awareness, involvement and support for World Heritage through **Communication**¹.
3. To the 4 Strategic Objectives mentioned above (also called “4 Cs”), the Committee, at its 31st session (Christchurch, 2007), decided to add a “Fifth C” for “Communities” which reads as follows: “To enhance the role of communities in the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention*” (Decision **31 COM 13B**).

II. Background information

A. Number of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention*

4. As of May 2013, there are 190 States Parties to the *Convention*². Since the 18th General Assembly in 2011, Brunei-Darussalam, Palestine as well as Singapore have joined the *Convention*.

B. Current Members of the World Heritage Committee and Bureau

5. **21 members:** Algeria, Cambodia, Colombia, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Germany, India, Iraq, Japan, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Qatar, Russian Federation, Senegal, Serbia, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, United Arab Emirates

Their terms of office are:

Until the **end of the 37th session of the General Conference** (2013): Cambodia, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Iraq, Mali, Mexico, Russian Federation, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, United Arab Emirates

Until the **end of the 38th session of the General Conference** (2015): Algeria, Colombia, Germany, India, Japan, Malaysia, Qatar, Senegal, Serbia

¹ See Decision **26 COM 17.1** (Budapest, 2002).

² The list of States Parties to the *World Heritage Convention* is available at the following web address:
<http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/>

Composition of the Bureau of the World Heritage Committee since July 2011

JUNE 2011-JULY 2012	JULY 2012-JUNE 2013	JUNE 2013
Chairperson: H.E. Mrs Eleonora MITROFANOVA, Russian Federation	Chairperson: H.E. Dr. SOK AN, Cambodia	To be elected at the 37th session of the World Heritage Committee
Rapporteur: Mrs Beatriz , Hernández Narváez Mexico	Rapporteur: Mrs Jasna Zrnovic, Serbia	
France	Algeria	
Malaysia	Colombia	
Mexico	Senegal	
South Africa	Switzerland	
United Arab Emirates	Thailand	

C. Number of seats in the World Heritage Committee reserved for States Parties with no property on the World Heritage List

6. As per paragraphs b) and c) respectively of the Rule 14.1 of the *Rules of Procedure* of the General Assembly of States Parties to the *Convention*: In case one or more electoral group(s), as defined by the UNESCO General Conference at its most recent session, might have no State Party in the composition of the next Committee, one seat per such electoral group(s) shall be reserved; notwithstanding, at each election, one seat shall be reserved for States Parties with no property on the World Heritage List.

D. World Heritage Statutory Meetings since the 18th General Assembly (7-9 November 2011)

SESSION	VENUE	DATES	DOCUMENTS PREPARED
36th session of the World Heritage Committee (36 COM)	Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation	24 June – 6 July 2012	39 working documents/16 information documents (WHC-12/36.COM)
37th session of the World Heritage Committee (37 COM)	Phnom Penh, Cambodia	16 -27 June 2013	33 working documents/15 information documents (WHC-13/37.COM)
TOTAL	72 working documents/31 information documents (103 documents in total)		

E. Strengthening the credibility of the World Heritage List

Nominations to the World Heritage List

Region	New cultural properties	New natural properties	New mixed properties	Total
Africa	2	2	0	4
Arab States	3	0	0	3
Asia/Pacific	5	2	1	8
Europe/North America	9	1	0	10
Latin America/Caribbean	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	20	5	1	26

7. The total number of properties on the World Heritage List as of May 2013 is 962 (745 cultural, 188 natural and 29 mixed)^[1]. These properties are located in 157 States Parties (i.e. 33 States Parties have no property inscribed on the World Heritage List). 171 States Parties have submitted Tentative Lists of properties they may decide to nominate in future years.

Inscription of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger since the 18th General Assembly (2011) [To be updated following the 37th session of the Committee]

Committee Session	Number of properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger	Number of properties removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger
36 COM (Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, 2012)	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liverpool – Maritime Mercantile City (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) • Timbuktu (Mali) • Tomb of Askia (Mali) • Fortifications on the Caribbean Side of Panama: Portobello-San Lorenzo (Panama) • Birthplace of Jesus, Church of the Nativity and the pilgrimage route, Bethlehem (Palestine) 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rice Terraces of the Philippine Cordilleras (Philippines) • Fort and Shalamar Gardens in Lahore (Pakistan)
37 COM (Phnom Penh, 2013)	<i>[To be updated following the 37th session of the Committee]</i>	<i>[To be updated following the 37th session of the Committee]</i>

^[1] The World Heritage List is available on the web at the following address: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/>

8. The total number of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger as of May 2013 is **38 (21 cultural and 17 natural)**³

Deletion of properties from the World Heritage List

9. None since 2009.

Global strategy for a representative, balanced and credible World Heritage List

10. International, inter-regional and regional meetings and workshops have been organized for the implementation of the Global Strategy: Details of all these activities have been included in document *WHC-13/37.COM/5A*.

F. Ensuring the effective conservation of World Heritage properties

State of conservation reports of World Heritage properties examined by the Committee since the 18th General Assembly (2011)

36 COM	LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER	WORLD HERITAGE LIST
Africa	14	19
Arab States	5	11
Asia/Pacific	6	20
Europe/North America	4	37
Latin America/ Caribbean	6	19
TOTAL	35	106
37 COM	LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER	WORLD HERITAGE LIST
Africa	16	18
Arab States	6	15
Asia/Pacific	4	23
Europe/North America	5	40
Latin America/ Caribbean	7	23
TOTAL	38	119

Approved International Assistance (IA) from the World Heritage Fund since the 18th General Assembly (2011) as of May 2013 [To be updated following the 37th session of the Committee]

³ The list of World Heritage in Danger is available on the web at the following address : <http://whc.unesco.org/en/danger/>

REGIONS	NUMBER OF STATES PARTIES TO REQUEST IA	NUMBER OF REQUESTS	TOTAL AMOUNT APPROVED (in USD)
Africa	8	9	351,946
Arab States	1	1	30,000
Asia and Pacific	4	4	109,262
Europe and North America	0	0	0
Latin America & Caribbean	5	5	96,891
TOTAL	18	19	588,099

Periodic Reporting

11. The final report on the results of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for Asia and the Pacific; the progress report on the follow-up of the first cycle and preparation of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for Europe and North America; the progress report in the Periodic Reporting exercise for Latin America and the Caribbean as well as the Follow-up of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for Africa were presented to the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee (Saint-Petersburg, 2012)

The Final report on the results of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Progress report on the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for Europe and North America, as well as the follow-up of the second cycle of the Periodic Reporting exercise for the other regions will be presented at the 37th session of the Committee.

Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism

12. As per Decision **31 COM 5.2**, the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism is a constant cooperative process with the State Party concerned.
13. At its 36th session (Saint Petersburg, 2012), the Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism was newly applied to the World Heritage property of Timbuktu in Mali. The Reinforced Monitoring Mechanism continues to be applied to the following properties:
- Old City of Jerusalem and its Walls (site proposed by Jordan)
 - Virunga National Park (Democratic Republic of Congo)
 - Kahuzi-Biega National Park (Democratic Republic of Congo)
 - Garamba National Park (Democratic Republic of Congo)
 - Salonga National Park (Democratic Republic of Congo)
 - Manovo Gounda St. Floris National Park (Central African Republic)
 - Temple of Preah Vihear (Cambodia)
 - Medieval Monuments in Kosovo (Serbia)
14. At its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013), the Committee decided to apply (or to continue applying) this Reinforced monitoring mechanism to the following World Heritage properties

[To be updated following the 37th session of the Committee]

International Conferences and Symposiums

15. A number of international conferences and symposiums focused on various World Heritage issues were organized by the World Heritage Centre or with the Centre's assistance. An inventory of these activities is included in document *WHC-13/37.COM/5A*. A specific report on the 40th Anniversary celebrations has been presented to the 37th session of the Committee (document *WHC-13/37.COM/5E*) and will be presented as well to the 19th session of the General Assembly.
16. A **Strategic Action Plan and Vision** to guide the implementation of the *World Heritage Convention* over the decade 2012-2022 has been adopted by the 18th General Assembly of States Parties (UNESCO, 2011). At its 36th session, the Committee welcomed the progress made in drafting the Implementation Plan by the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies and the efforts to further define various activities contained in the Draft Implementation Plan. The Committee requested that the outcome and progress in the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan be presented to the General Assembly at its 19th session in 2013 for its consideration.

G. Promoting the development of effective capacity-building in States Parties

Global Training Strategy

17. Over the past biennium, the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies, in close cooperation with States Parties and relevant category 2 centres, have undertaken a number of activities which contributed directly to the implementation of the World Heritage for Capacity Building Strategy (WHCBS), adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session (Paris, 2011). These included programmes aimed at strengthening regional and national institutions responsible for heritage protection, training initiatives targeting professionals and youth and the development of new guidance materials.

Education activities

18. A number of international World Heritage youth fora, youth volunteer projects and international as well as regional workshop and training courses were organized by the World Heritage Centre or with the Centre's assistance to develop educational activities related to World Heritage (an inventory of these activities is included in document *WHC-13/37.COM/5A*).
19. New translations and adaptations of the World Heritage in Young Hands Educational Resource Kit for Teachers were undertaken in FYR Macedonia in close collaboration with the concerned Member State and the interactive DVD version in English of the Kit has been finalised while the version in French is currently in production.
20. Four new episodes of the Património's World Heritage Adventures cartoon series were produced in close collaboration with the concerned Member States of Peru, Lebanon, Republic of Korea and China, on the themes role of communities and sustainable development.

H. Increasing public awareness, involvement and support for World Heritage through communication

Awareness-raising

21. In 2012, the World Heritage website <http://whc.unesco.org> received an average of 26,767 visits per day. Traffic to the World Heritage website has increased by 20%, from 8,106,854 visits in 2010 to 9,796,892 in 2012.

22. The e-mail newsletter "World Heritage Information" was sent in November 2011 and in April, July and November 2012 in French or English to some 80,000 World Heritage Centre website members.

23. Articles and interviews on World Heritage have been published through working with numerous national and international well-known media.

24. In the framework of the 40th anniversary of the World Heritage Convention, more than 70 events were organized worldwide in 47 countries and a series of communication components were developed by the World Heritage Centre to promote the anniversary year. A detailed report on the celebrations is presented in document *WHC-13/37.COM/5E*.

Publications

25. In 2011-2012, 100,000 World Heritage Maps were produced and disseminated in English, French and Spanish in partnership with the Russian Federation and National Geographic (including 20,000 copies in Russian and 10,000 in Korean) and 71,000 copies in 2012-2013 in partnership with National Geographic and Cambodia.

26. Six new publications were issued in the World Heritage Papers Series:
World Heritage Papers Series

- N° 30, Adapting to change: the state of conservation of World Heritage forests in 2011 (English only); World Heritage Papers Series
- N° 31: Community Development through World Heritage (English only)
- N° 32. Assessing Marine World Heritage from an Ecosystem Perspective: the Western Indian Ocean (English only)
- N° 33. Human Origin sites and the World Heritage Convention in Africa (English only)
- N° 34. World Heritage in a Sea of Islands Pacific 2009 Programme (English only)
- N° 35 Understanding World Heritage in Asia and the Pacific: The Second Cycle of Periodic Reporting 2010-2012 (English only).

27. Seven issues of the quarterly magazine World Heritage (issues 62 to 68) were published between February 2012 and June 2013.

28. The 2012 and 2013 editions of the UNESCO World Heritage Desk Diary were published, for sale and limited free distribution.

29. In the context of the 40th anniversary, a volume of case studies on World Heritage, Sustainable development and local communities entitled *World Heritage: Benefits Beyond Borders* was co-published with Cambridge University Press.

30. The World Heritage Resource Manual Series continues with a new title, translations of manuals and some printed versions: *Preparing World Heritage Nominations* (updated version 2011), translated into Arabic, printed in French and English; *Managing Natural World Heritage* printed in French and English.

Bi-lateral Agreements with States Parties and Partnerships

31. Since 2011, bilateral agreements have been concluded or continued with 17 States Parties and the European Commission, while the World Heritage Centre has consolidated and/or established 19 partnerships with private sector companies and foundations. The Centre manages all the agreements in cooperation with UNESCO Bureau of Strategic Planning (BSP) and reports to the World Heritage Committee about each on-going partnership. An inventory of on-going and envisaged partnerships with the private sector is presented to the Committee in document *WHC-13/37.COM/5D*.

32. Furthermore, 7 Memoranda of Understanding are currently implemented with Universities, out of which 2 have been established since 2011.